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Israel says he is envoy of Messiah

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli suspect of desecrating 250 Jewish graves told a court Tuesday he was innocent, but added that he was an envoy of the Messiah. "I am on a holy mission," David Goldwasser, a 32-year-old computer engineer, told reporters after denying spray-painting graves in Beth She'an. He said he was a preacher. Police said they believed Goldwasser and a friend, both Jews, were involved in the desecration of graves in two cemeteries at the weekend. The graves were marked with slogans including "Burn the Jews" and "Blasphemy destroy Israel." The attack followed a highly publicized desecration of a Jewish cemetery in France. The judge released Goldwasser, who has not been formally charged, in custody for 15 days and out him about when he tried to explain his mission in court. "I am not a Jew," Goldwasser said. "I am a Messiah. I am not a Jew and I will appear in court later, are mentally unbalanced. Police Commissioner Yasser Tharar said: "It's not final yet... but we have a strong suspicion that there is an involvement in the matter. We have other evidence that strengthens this suspicion."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الراي"

Volume 15 Number 4391 AMMAN WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, SHAWWAL 20, 1410 Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Bush to meet de Klerk and Mandela

WASHINGTON (R) — South African President F.W. de Klerk will meet President George Bush at the White House June 18, exactly one week before a White House visit by African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, an administration official said Tuesday. The official, who asked not to be identified, said de Klerk would make an official working visit including lunch with Bush and that Mandela would receive "roughly equal time" with the president. The scheduling of the two visits, specifically which would come first, has been a sensitive protocol question ever since Bush invited them both to the White House after de Klerk freed Mandela Feb. 11 after 27 years in prison. The official could not say why de Klerk would be received first. Bush issued the invitations in a bid to encourage reconciliation between whites and blacks in South Africa and in recognition of de Klerk's willingness to end apartheid and negotiate a political settlement with the country's black majority. De Klerk and Mandela held preliminary talks in Cape Town May 2.

King visits RJ simulator centre

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday visited the Royal Jordanian's (RJ) simulator centre where he was briefed on the centre's progress and the services it offers in the field of training pilots. The King called for providing the best expertise to pilots both from the RJ and other airlines. King Hussein wished this national institution every success. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the RJ board chairman and its executive director.

Jawara ends visit affirming support for Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Gambian President Dawda Kairaba Jawara left Amman Tuesday after a three-day visit reaffirming the support of his country as well as the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) for the Arab call for an international peace conference on the Middle East. Gambia and the OAU support a just and durable solution to the Palestinian problem and believe that an international peace conference held under the auspices of the United Nations can lead to such a solution, Jawara told Jordan Television in a pre-departure interview. Most African countries, and the OAU in particular, support the Palestinian cause and it was in a show of solidarity with the Arabs that most OAU countries broke diplomatic relations with Israel after the Jewish state occupied Arab territories in the 1967 war, Jawara told Jordan Television. "The evolution of the approach to find a solution to the problem, and in particular the call for an international conference under the auspices of the U.N. with the full participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), received our full support from the very beginning," Jawara said. According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Jawara's visit has laid the ground work for future relations between the Kingdom and the African Islamic country. Talks between His Majesty King Hussein and the Gambian president focused on various Middle East and African issues and prospects for Jordanian-Gambian cooperation in light of changes in the international scene, Petra said. The two countries do not have diplomatic ties and earlier reports said an announcement of formal relations could come during Jawara's visit, which, according to Petra, "allowed for building strong future ties." The Gambian president, who was accompanied by his wife and a high-level official delegation, toured a number of archaeological and touristic sites and visited universities and hospitals. The Gambian president was seen off upon his departure Tuesday by King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and high-ranking officials.



His Majesty King Hussein and Gambian President Dawda Jawara inspect a guard of honour mounted Tuesday upon the departure of the Gambian leader after a three-day state visit (Petra photo).

Cabinet approves accord with UAE

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday authorised Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Fariz to exchange instruments of ratification of an economic, commercial, and technical cooperation agreement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The agreement was concluded in June 1989 to encourage the export and import of agricultural, and industrial products between the two countries. The agreement also provides for giving priority in transporting goods from and to both countries to Jordanian and UAE vehicles. It called for increased technical cooperation and for the exchange of experts in addition to encouraging the transfer of capitals between the two countries, and giving such capitals the privileges, guarantees and rights contained in the wider agreement on the investment of Arab capitals in Arab states. The Jordan-UAE agreement calls for offering all necessary facilities to encourage setting up joint companies and projects. A special committee made up of representatives of the two countries will be formed to follow up on the implementation of the agreement's provisions. The committee will meet annually or at the request of one of the parties in Amman and Abu Dhabi by rotation. At a session held Tuesday, the Cabinet approved the formation of the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Council in Jerusalem, with Sheikh Saaduddin Al Alami as president. Sheikh Abdul Azim Salhab was named vice-president, and Sheikh Ukrimah Sabri, Adnan Al Hussein, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein, Sheikh Hayyan Al Idris, Sheikh Mohammad Nafe, Abdul Rahim Al Hanbali, Sheikh Mustaf Abu Zahra, Sheikh Hamed Al Bitawi and Sheikh Ali Al Tazazi were named members. The Cabinet also approved a "readable information system" provided by the French government as a donation to Jordan to help it provide information to visitors and tourists around the clock. The system is made up of a central computer and 40 monitors, which will be stationed in various touristic and archaeological sites in Jordan.

Bhutto in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan arrived in Tehran Tuesday and called for expansion of "historical and friendly" ties with Iran, the state news agency reported. The Islamic Republic News Agency said she was met at the airport upon arrival from the Iranian holy city of Mashhad by First Vice-President Hassan Habibi. It quoted him as saying he hoped that Bhutto's visit would portend "peace and friendship" in the region.

Gorbachev, Mubarak condemn settlements

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Tuesday signed a declaration condemning the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories. In an historic visit that ended 18 years of strained relations, Mubarak met Gorbachev for 90 minutes in the Kremlin before the two leaders signed the document. It said Palestinians should choose their own destiny and described the Israeli occupation of Arab Jerusalem as illegal and a dangerous obstacle to peace. The two leaders also called for an international peace conference under United Nations auspices to discuss the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The declaration sealed diplomatic ties which were soured when former President Anwar Sadat turned to the West in the 1970s. In September 1981, a month before he was assassinated by religious zealots, Sadat broke off ties with Moscow and accused it of plotting against the Egyptian state. "The meeting was important considering the Soviet Union's increasing role on the international stage and Egypt's leadership role in the Middle East," an Egyptian diplomat said. The Egyptian president has been invited to address the Supreme Soviet, the country's parliament, Wednesday. He would be the first foreign leader ever to do so. Israel approves more funds

4 Palestinians killed as strike marks Israel creation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The bodies of three Palestinians, including a village leader who was stabbed to death, were found in the occupied West Bank Tuesday. A 14-year-old Palestinian also died of wounds after being shot earlier by a Jewish settler. Throughout the occupied lands, Palestinians staged a protest strike to mark the 42nd anniversary of the founding of Israel. Jewish settlers rampaged through Arab neighbourhoods in the Jerusalem area early Tuesday, smashing car and house windows, after Palestinians fired-bombed an Israeli bus. Settlers from Maale Adumim, a West Bank dormitory town perched on hills just outside Jerusalem, attacked Arab motorists after a petrol bomb hit a bus on the road to their settlement. One settler was arrested, police said. "Several groups of Maale Adumim residents went wild. They stoned Arab homes near the road to Jerusalem, tried to yank Arabs out of their cars and disrupted traffic," a police spokeswoman told Reuters. She said the settlers stoned houses in the villages of Ayzariya and Issawiya outside Jerusalem. The army clamped a curfew on Ayzariya, a frequent ambush spot where a Jewish taxi driver was stoned and injured Monday night. Five employees of the Arabic Al Fajr newspaper were injured by flying glass when 50 settlers yelling "Death to Arabs" stoned their car, an Arab journalist told Reuters. In the West Bank village of Qalqilya, 14-year-old Samih Abu Sheikh died from wounds sustained when he was shot in the head by an Israeli motorist Sunday, the army said. Palestinians said a settler shot him. On Monday night, police shot and killed Khamis Abu Khousa, 19, in a clash with masked activists in an orchard in the Gaza Strip, military sources said. Israel Radio said the village headman of Balaa in the West Bank was stabbed to death by militants who accused him of collaborating with Israeli forces. Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip closed their shops, halted transport and stayed home to protest at the anniversary of Israel's establishment. —Israelis celebrated the anniversary on April 30 according to the Hebrew calendar. A general strike called by leaders of the 29-month uprising also prevented most workers from the occupied territories from going to jobs in Israel. Some 120,000 Arab workers pour into Israel daily. The army imposed a curfew on some 250,000 Gazans, more than a third of the strip's residents, to prevent protests during the strike.

Low voter turnout forces extended voting in Zarqa

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — Zarqa, the Kingdom's second largest city, Tuesday held its first municipal elections since 1978, but a low voter turnout forced the governor to extend voting for another day. Voting was visibly slow all day at the city's 12 polling centres and it appeared that more women than men were voting to choose 10 council members out of a field of 54 candidates. Voting resumes Wednesday morning and ends at 5:00 p.m. Election officials said that by the closing of voting at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday only 17,000 people out of 63,000 eligible voters had cast their votes. Some observers attributed the low turnout to last-minute deals between and among candidates and constituencies, while residents said the phenomenon was an expression of apathy. "People are frustrated," a Zarqa resident told the Jordan Times. "They have no hope in the whole exercise. They have always been like this and Zarqa elections always took two days." Mohammad Al Alkhouk, a candidate of the "Zarqa Islamic bloc," said that Islamists, led by the Muslim Brotherhood, would probably dominate the elections. However, he added, "it is not yet clear to what extent; it is very difficult to judge." Most election observers who spoke to the Jordan Times asserted that the nine-member "Islamic Action Bloc" — with five of its candidates official members of the Muslim Brotherhood — was the most powerful. Yasser Omari, leader of the bloc, is said by many to have been the most active in urging people, particularly women, to go to the polls. However, Omari is being boycotted by some Islamists who say they would not elect him to a post that would involve rendering services or dealing with bars and liquor stores as well as dealing with commercial banks which charge and give interest on deposits and loans, contrary to Islamic law. But, a taxi driver said, "everybody is voting for Omari." The Bani Hassan Bedouin tribe, the highest single voting bloc in Zarqa after the Muslim Brotherhood, is fielding a candidate in each of the five blocs. (Continued on page 5)

Bashir sends message to Assad

DAMASCUS (R) — Sudan's Interior Minister Faisal Abu Saleh has arrived in Damascus with a message for President Hafez Al Assad from Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir, officials said Tuesday. Diplomats said his talks were expected to cover an Arab summit in Baghdad May 28. Sudan is one of at least 19 Arab League members to declare support for the meeting.

Debt, Soviet Jews high on Ben Ali-Bush agenda

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush welcomed Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali to the White House Tuesday, hailing him as an ally and an advocate of peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. "Your visit continues a tradition of high-level discussions, demonstrating that our relations — dating back to 1797 and close since Tunisian independence in 1956 — are still sound and growing," Bush said. On a warm spring day, Ben Ali was treated to the pomp and ceremony of a formal welcome to the White House, with military bands and colourful honour guards on the South Lawn. The Tunisian leader planned to ask Bush for debt relief and to express the Arab World's alarm over growing Soviet immigration to Israel. Ben Ali also was expected to protest what Arab countries view as unjustified U.S. and British attacks on Iraq for its alleged attempts to develop nuclear weapons. Praising Tunisia as an intermediary between Arab countries and the West, Bush said, "It's been an example of pragmatism, stability and progress in the Middle East. "And Tunisia has consistently supported a peaceful, negotiated resolution to the Middle East issues, including the Arab-Israeli conflict," Bush said. He said Tunisia's record is impressive in other areas, as well, since it has the highest literacy rate in North Africa and consistently has honoured its debt obligations. Ben Ali thanked Bush for U.S. assistance over the years. "We are pleased to say that we are committed as firmly as you are to the ideals of democracy, human rights and free market economy, for such are our fundamental choices," Ben Ali said. "And we are confident that you will continue supporting and strengthening these options," he said. Ben Ali, who arrived here Monday for a three-day state visit, has a busy schedule including meetings with administration officials, lawmakers, leaders of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, and a gala White House dinner.

Protests in Estonia, Latvia

VILNIUS (Agencies) — Demonstrators tore down Estonia's flag and thousands of Soviet soldiers tried to break into the Latvian parliament Tuesday in protests against the Baltic republics' independence campaign. Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, in a radio interview broadcast as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker flew to Moscow for an arms summit, appealed to the Americans to raise the issue of Baltic independence with Soviet leaders. A pro-moscow crowd in the Estonian capital of Tallinn advanced on the 14th century Toompea Palace and tore down the republic's blue, white and black flag, which was raised last week when lawmakers voted for independence, witnesses said. The anti-independence protesters briefly raised the Soviet Union's red hammer-and-sickle flag over the legislature. But Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar delivered a live radio address urging pro-independence forces to converge on the palace. They heeded his call and restored the Estonian flag, the witnesses said. A large pro-independence demonstration continued into the night, said Alan Mortenson, an employee of the Estonian news agency ETA. Lemby Tugane of the Estonian Popular Front gave a similar account by telephone from Tallinn. Meanwhile about 2,000 people opposed to Estonian independence tried to storm the parliament building Tuesday but were driven away by crowds who rallied to a radio appeal for help, the republic's foreign minister said. "After the broadcast, some 15 to 20,000 people rushed here and repulsed the mob without use of force," Leenart Meri told Reuters from his office, near the besieged building in the capital, Tallinn.

Shamir seeks more time to form coalition

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will ask President Chaim Herzog for more time to try to forge a right-wing government when his three-week mandate expires Friday, a Likud Party cabinet member said Tuesday. Asked if Shamir, the Likud leader, could form a coalition this week, Labour and Social Affairs Minister Ronni Milo told reporters: "No I don't think so. We are going to conclude negotiations and agreements with the other parties this week and then I believe that next week we have a good chance to present the new government in the Knesset (parliament)." Milo met the National Religious Party as part of a drive for agreements with four religious parties and three right-wing factions that would give Shamir 65 votes in the 120-seat parliament. At present he only has 61 committed supporters. A 15-month-old coalition between Likud and the Labour Party collapsed in March due to differences over a U.S. proposal to hold the first-ever Palestinian-Israeli talks in Egypt. Herzog asked Shamir to form the government nearly three weeks ago after Labour leader Shimon Peres failed to form a left-wing coalition. Shamir's media adviser Avi Pazner told Reuters differences persisted with Likud's potential partners on the policy platform for a right-wing government. Israel Radio said Shamir told the small parties the new cabinet would be committed to last year's initiative but would not allow Palestinian elections to include Arab Jerusalem. The far-right groups oppose the initiative. The Shas party, which helped bring down the coalition in March, wants the new government to give a positive answer to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo. The radio said Shas was demanding that its five deputies be free to vote according to their consciences on diplomatic efforts. Shamir rejected their demand saying that the previous government collapsed over the process, it said. Likud was also negotiating the distribution of cabinet seats for the various parties, Pazner said. Meanwhile Former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin Tuesday stepped up his bid to oust Peres, demanding that the Labour Party elect a new leader by next week. Peres, 66, rejected the call, insisting the party should wait until it becomes clear whether Likud will be able to form a coalition government. Rabin, who served as prime minister from 1974-77, opened his campaign two weeks ago after Peres failed to form a government and was forced to give the mandate to Shamir. Peres and Rabin, longtime intraparty rivals who have not battled in public since the first Labour-Likud coalition was formed in 1984, openly clashed during the weekly meeting of the party leadership Monday night. Rabin said Peres had abandoned a position in a joint government for the opposition and said the party should choose a new leader by next week. Peres' attempt to form a Labour government was "a complete failure, conceptually and practically," Rabin said on Israel Radio Tuesday. "There is a feeling in the party that it and the country experienced a shock and as a result, we have to draw conclusions in all areas, including personnel," Rabin said. Peres resisted the demand, saying he was elected for a period of four years and would not agree to leadership elections until the process of forming a government was completed.

Baker in Moscow to prepare for summit

MOSCOW (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Moscow Tuesday for a four-day visit aimed at working out arms control agreements with the Soviet Union for signing at the fast-approaching Washington summit. Baker's aides are not predicting success. "By the end of the week we should know a lot more," a senior U.S. official said before Baker left the United States Monday night. The four days of talks are Baker's last chance to work out agreements with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze for signing during the May 30-June 3 visit to Washington of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The two sides are in disagreement on several key issues. The Soviet Union's internal problems also could get in the way. "The general assumption is that (Gorbachev) has increasingly acquired more of the formal power," said the senior U.S. official, who demanded anonymity. "On the other hand, his difficulties with the economy and nationalities, and the general level of dissatisfaction have, perhaps, limited his ability to use that power." Other topics Baker will take up with Shevardnadze starting Wednesday include the restive Baltic republics and outbreaks of "anti-Semitism" in the Soviet Union. The two foreign ministers also will discuss accords on space, the environment and trade being prepared for the summit. On his way to Moscow, Baker stopped in New York to make a speech, promising to keep U.S. troops in Europe even if the treaties are concluded. "Even if all Soviet armed forces return to the USSR and conventional arms control moves forward, the Soviet military will retain forces many times larger than those possessed by any other single state," Baker said. He said the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) would not dissolve, either. "To prevent war, we must continue to deter aggression and contain the residual threat," Baker said. He suggested the Western alliance take on more of a political role, however, and consider holding "a solid political and military dialogue" with the Soviet Union and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

U.K. experts link Frankfurt customs seizure to Iraqi gun

FRANKFURT (R) — British military experts say machine parts seized at Frankfurt airport are probably part of a planned Iraqi cannon, a spokesman for the Frankfurt customs office said Tuesday.

Experts from Britain's Ministry of Defence had examined some of the shipment and discovered they matched other parts seized in Britain. "It is clear that the parts fit together exactly," the spokesman said.

Malik Radif Al Ubaidi, counsel at the Iraqi embassy in Bonn said he had no details of the goods seized at Frankfurt airport in April.

But he added: "The parts that have been seized in London, in Turkey and now in West Germany are not parts of a supergun, but for the petrochemical industry."

The seizures will continue the debate on whether Iraq is building a giant 40-metre (120 foot) cannon, capable of reaching targets as far away as Israel, Iran or Syria.

In the last month officials have confiscated steel pipes and other parts in Britain, Italy, Turkey and Greece. Defence experts say the parts probably form part of a giant gun.

Iraq has continually denied it is building a cannon, saying items seized were to be used in the oil industry.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq

Aziz protested to Italy Monday, over the seizure of 90 tonnes of steel components which police say could also be part of the alleged Iraqi gun. "This contract was fully legal, fully normal and at the last moment it was seized," Aziz told reporters in Rome.

"There has been a big lie which originated from London that the Iraqis are building a supergun and they are using these pipes. That is untrue," Aziz said.

The 17 crates of machine tools seized in Frankfurt weighed in at 37 tonnes and were destined for Baghdad. Pictures of one item show a large dull steel pipe about four metres long with a diameter of about 60 centimetres.

The crates came from Belgium and Switzerland and had been described to customs as oil industry equipment.

The spokesman said parts seized by West German customs included hydraulic pumps. Although these could be used for other purposes, investigators were certain they were parts of a giant gun.

"Looking at the measurements and the criteria we already have, at the end of the day they (the parts) are obviously designed to

build a supergun in Iraq," the spokesman said.

At the West German State Prosecutor's office, a spokesman said investigations into the customs seizure were under way and likely to last for some time.

Investigations centred on possible breach of West German restrictions on arms exports. West German law prevents the export of arms to war zones, although members of the opposition Social Democratic Party have claimed such export rules are frequently breached.

The spokesman said he could not rule out that some parts were made in West Germany.

Some of the crates bore markings from West German industrial giant Mannesmann and its subsidiary Brueninghaus Hydramilwerke, which makes hydraulic equipment, the spokesman said.

Mannesmann spokesman Friedrich Schumacher said part of the shipment seized in Frankfurt appeared to consist of Brueninghaus hydraulic pumps, but he said Brueninghaus had not delivered hydraulic equipment directly to Iraq.

Mannesmann was trying to find out to whom the pumps, which had non-military use, had been delivered. "We do not consider ourselves (in the issue)," he said.

The Italian and Iraqi foreign ministers met Monday as Italy probed the manufacture by a

state-owned steelmaker of alleged components for an Iraqi "super gun" capable of firing nuclear or chemical weapons.

Prosecutors said an Italian is being questioned on suspicion of illegal arms trafficking in the case.

Authorities last week announced the seizure of nearly 100 tons of steel tubing and other parts about to be shipped out of Italy to Baghdad.

The Italian Foreign Ministry said only that Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis met with Aziz but did not say what they discussed.

Nearly all the seized components came from a foundry in the Umbrian city of Terni that is part of Ilva Spa, a state-owned company that is the world's fifth-largest steelmaker.

Meanwhile Britain's ambassador to Iraq, recalled in March in protest at the execution of British-based journalist Faraz Bazoof, will return to Baghdad this week, the Foreign Office said Tuesday.

Relations between the two countries suffered a severe blow after Britain condemned the execution of Iranian-born Bazoof as "barbaric" and summoned Ambassador Harold Walker for consultation.

Britain's response prompted mass anti-British demonstrations outside its embassy in Baghdad.

Democracy march shows new force in Algeria

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

ALGIERS — Tens of thousands of Algerians who joined a pro-democracy march in the capital last Thursday showed the limits of Muslim fundamentalism in Algeria but they have yet to coalesce into an effective political force.

A loose coalition of moderate and leftist parties organised the nationwide march, mobilising large numbers of Algerians from all walks of life.

Political analysts said the impressive showing could foreshadow the emergence of what Algeria's fledgling multi-party democracy now lacks — a credible liberal successor to the widely discredited ruling party, the National Liberation Front (FLN).

A month ahead of the first free elections, the march showed that vast numbers of Algerians do not accept the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) as the only alternative to the FLN after 27 years of one-party rule.

But the pro-democracy forces still needed to define common objectives and project a compelling vision of Algeria's future, the analysts said.

"The alternative to the FIS has not yet coalesced. What the pro-democracy forces need to do is to organise themselves into a party and give Algerians a real alternative to both the FLN and the FIS," said one senior Western diplomat.

"It's one thing to turn people out on the streets, and another to organise a coherent political force," he said.

By most counts the four organising parties succeeded in surpassing the 50,000 to 60,000 FIS supporters that marched on the presidential palace last month.

The pro-democracy march impressed observers not only by its numbers — more than 100,000 by most independent accounts — but by the breadth of support.

While the FIS march was

dominated by the crisis-hit young urban poor, the pro-democracy marchers appeared more representative of Algerian society — grouping middle-class professionals, non-Arab Berbers and women alarmed by the rise of fundamentalism as well as unemployed youth.

"The silent majority has spoken" proclaimed state media that loudly supported the event. But the non-fundamentalist opposition remains deeply divided and some major parties — such as the Socialist Forces Front (SFF) of revolutionary war hero Hocine Ait Ahmed — refused to take part. The SFF has its own march set for May 31.

Analysts said the FIS was now under increasing pressure to moderate its vision of Islam to counter widespread belief that it opposes political pluralism and social tolerance.

A series of attacks by Muslim extremists on women and entertainment venues deemed offensive to Islam during the recent holy month of Ramadan led many Algerians to equate the FIS with violence — a charge it bitterly rejects.

In a first response, the fiery young FIS preacher Ali Benhadj

told a Friday prayer sermon the fundamentalists would pursue their goal on an Islamic state even if blood had to be spilled.

"The road toward an Islamic state is marked with tears and blood," he told several thousand supporters at the capital's Al Sunna Mosque.

"Women were shouting in the streets for a free and democratic Algeria," Benhadj said, referring to a large contingent of feminists in the pro-democracy march.

"We say: Algeria can only be Islamic."

President Chadli Benjedid joined a chorus of criticism of fundamentalist thought from Islamic scholars at a conference in Algiers last week, saying Islam and politics should not mix.

Irish envoy appeals for release of Keenan

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Irish Ambassador Antoine Mac Unfridh appealed Tuesday to the kidnappers of hostage Brian Keenan to release him and all other hostages out of humanitarian considerations.

"Mr. Keenan does not belong to an imperialist power. He comes from a poor and small country that has its share of war," Mac Unfridh said at a news conference at the Irish consulate in Beirut.

"I appeal to those who hold Mr. Brian Keenan to release him and other hostages in the name of humanity," said the ambassador, who is resident in Iraq and accredited to Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Cyprus.

Mac Unfridh flew to Beirut Monday to try to obtain new information on Keenan's welfare.

He said he was on a fact-finding visit following the recent release of two American hostages, "and not prompted by any new developments on Mr. Keenan's fate."

Keenan, 39, of Belfast in British-ruled Northern Ireland, was an English teacher at the American University in Beirut when kidnapped on April 17, 1986. No group has claimed him.

The 16 Westerners held in Lebanon are six Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

"Wait is well after illness"

Meanwhile, pro-Iranian sources said in Beirut Tuesday British Church envoy Terry Wait is alive and well after 40 months as a hostage in Lebanon and has recovered from a recent illness.

They said two Iranian doctors attended Wait regularly until his condition worsened about a month ago, when he was treated by a doctor from Beirut's American University Hospital.

One source said an end to the plight of all Western hostages, including six Americans and three Britons, was near. He said Washington and Tehran were holding direct talks on the issue.

"Wait is being held in acceptable conditions in the southern suburbs (of Beirut) and is receiving regular medical attention," he said.

The sources, close to the groups holding Wait, 51, and 14 other Westerners in Lebanon, would not say what Wait suffered from. They said he had had "several health problems."

"Two Iranian doctors attend regularly to him but around a month ago his condition deteriorated and a Lebanese doctor from the American Hospital in Beirut treated him and he has recovered," one source said.

Arab-Americans 'become' political force in U.S.

From the Washington Post and the Washington Times

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of Arab-American congressmen, state lawmakers, mayors and party officials from around the country proclaimed their arrival as a political force in American politics over the weekend.

"For Ed Rollins and Ron Brown to be willing to attend our conference shows the phenomenal maturation of Arab-Americans politically," said George Salem, a lawyer of Palestinian descent who was labour department solicitor in the Reagan administration and chairman of Arab-Americans for Bush-Quayle in '88.

Mr. Rollins, co-chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, and Mr. Brown, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, addressed the three-day meeting

of more than 200 Arab-Americans.

At a private White House briefing, administration officials also encouraged the group.

"This is the first time I've met with an Arab-American group to hear its point of view in the two years I've been with the Bush administration," a White House official said.

"I've met 15 times with the leaders of the other (pro-Israel) side in the last month," the official, said, according to conference sources.

"When we have national pundits coming to our conference, we know we've arrived," James Zogby, executive director of Arab American Institute, said at a banquet honouring author and human-rights spokesman Edward Said, former American Enterprise Institute Chairman William J. Baroody Jr. and former Takoma Park Mayor Sammie Abdul-

lah Abbott.

The "pundits" were New Republic senior editor Morton Kondracke and syndicated columnist Patrick J. Buchanan, who held a "crossfire" style debate at the conference luncheon Saturday.

Mr. Kondracke twice surprised the pro-Palestinian audience. "Sure, I think there should be a Palestinian state," he said, although he questioned the intentions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) toward Israel.

In response to another question from the audience, Kondracke said the New Republic is "widely regarded as a Zionist publication — and correctly so."

Buchanan, asked what had prompted him to move from a strongly pro-Israel position while an official in the Reagan White House to the pro-Palestinian views expressed in his columns, cited the "intifada," the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occu-

pied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

National leaders from the Democratic and Republican parties have encouraged Arab American political activists more involved in the national political process.

"I wanted to come here and be with you to say that our arms are open, that our hearts are open, that our minds are open," Brown told the nearly 200 Arab Americans attending a three-day leadership conference.

"This was not the case in days past," said Zogby. "Then the message was: 'We can't afford your involvement; it's too risky.' Rollins urged the group to find positive ways to communicate its message. 'To have political effectiveness, you can't labour under negative stereotypes,' he said, noting that much of 'the focus is on your radical side.' Correcting that misrepresentation, Rollins said, is as important as tactical matters.

Israeli human rights lawyer quits

WASHINGTON — For 23 years, ever since Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a short, curly lawyer named Felicia Langer has haunted the crowded courtrooms where the army administrators justice to rebellious Palestinians. Prosecutors seeking summary convictions have had to bear her interference; defendants, with little hope of mercy, have counted on her passionate summations to affirm their dignity.

Langer, a 59-year-old Holocaust survivor, has rarely won a case. And yet for years, when Arabs have been arrested on political charges, faced deportation or the demolition of their homes, or fallen victim to soldiers' brutality, their families have looked for justice at her shabby Jerusalem office.

Now, as Israel's military machine relentlessly grinds down the 30-month old Palestinian intifada, or uprising, in the occupied Arab lands, Langer has decided to quit. She has closed her Jerusalem office, packed her thousands of files and retreated to the modest apartment she shares with her husband in a drab Tel Aviv high-rise.

"I want my quitting to be a sort of demonstration and expression of my despair and disgust with the system, and maybe as a proof that something must be done to grant protection to the Palestinians in the occupied territories," she said.

Arab-American conference discusses problems, aspirations

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Arab American Institute (AAI) held its fifth annual leadership conference here on May 10-12, attracting more than 200 Arab-American leaders from 26 states for a weekend of briefings, seminars and workshops devoted to the Arab-American community's problems and aspirations.

With "Campaign '90: Year of Challenge and Change" as its theme, the conference also brought together 19 Arab-American elected officials, leaders of 12 national Arab-American organisations, and parliamentarians from three Arab countries.

The conference programme included discussions of political action, the intifada, problems of American cities, and democracy in Arab countries. The latter subject was discussed by the three visiting Arab parliamentarians — Dr. Laila T. Takla of Egypt, Butros Harb of Lebanon, and Laith F. Shubailat of Jordan.

Conference participants also honoured the accomplishments of Edward Said, human rights defender, author, professor of comparative literature and music critic, at its banquet on May 12. Said was recognised for his efforts in urging the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to take a clear stand on recognising Israel's right to exist and in the drafting of the Palestinian declaration of independence.

In one of the conference sessions, commentators Morton Kondracke, senior editor of the "New Republic," and Patrick J. Buchanan, a syndicated columnist, debated the intifada and other Israeli-Palestinian issues.

Most of the conference, however, dealt with political action in the United States.

"Get involved in politics if you want to make a difference," was the overriding message that conference participants received.

Civil rights leader and former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, addressing a dinner on May 11, called on Arab Americans to become even more forceful in

demanding recognition. He urged them to hold demonstrations and rallies much as the blacks had done in the 1960s "to challenge the conscience of the American public."

Democratic Party National Chairman Ron Brown addressed the AAI luncheon on May 11, saying the "arms, hearts, and minds" of his party are open to the Arab-American community. "Unity is important to victory," he said, adding, "I am counting on you to be active participants in the democracy of this nation."

Also speaking on behalf of the Democratic Party was Representative Mary Rose Oakar of Ohio. "By supporting members of our community and by sharing our political knowledge with other communities across America, we are building a better future and a stronger voice for Arab-Americans," she told conference participants at the same luncheon.

Iraq denies clampdown on Mujahideen

BAGHDAD (R) — Baghdad denied Tuesday a Tehran newspaper report that it had clamped down on Iran's main opposition group, the Mujahideen Khalq, in Iraq.

"The report, which was repeated by some news agencies, that the Iraqi government had put restrictions on Rajavi... is completely baseless," the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a "reliable source" as saying.

The Tehran report was also denied Monday by a Mujahideen spokesman in Baghdad, the headquarters of the group since its leaders were forced to leave

France in 1986.

The Mujahideen's National Liberation Army (NLA) launched several offensives into Iran from their bases in Iraq, the last one less than a month before a U.N.-brokered ceasefire halted the Iran-Iraq war in August 1988.

Kayban Haval linked the alleged Iraqi action to a new Iraqi peace offer contained in a secret letter to the Iranian leadership which proposed a meeting between Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq

Aziz told reporters in Rome Monday that Iran had responded to the letter and Iraq viewed the exchange positively.

He did not disclose the contents of the exchange but denied press reports that the Iraqi message suggested that negotiations over border issues could begin from the Algiers Accord — a 1975 pact which Hussein tore up shortly before the start of the 1980-88 war.

Rafsanjani said last week he saw some signs of goodwill in Iraq's attitude towards the peace negotiations.

U.N. chief returns after talks with Iraqi minister

ROME (R) — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar returned to New York Tuesday after talks in Rome with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz on efforts to seal a final peace settlement to the Gulf war.

Few details emerged of the talks but Perez de Cuellar told reporters the United Nations was ready to help resolve the stalemate that followed a 1988 ceasefire in the war between Iraq and Iran.

Earlier Monday Perez de Cuellar met a representative of Polisario guerrillas fighting for independence in the Western Sahara. No details of the meeting emerged.

Aziz indicated Monday that

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sent a conciliatory letter to Iran, and its longtime enemy has given an encouraging reply.

He said he discussed the status of peace talks during a 90-minute meeting Monday evening with U.S. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who has proposed holding direct talks between the two nations.

The U.N. and Iraqi officials came to Rome Sunday evening for the meeting.

Aziz disclosed that last week Hussein sent a letter to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, but he did not disclose the contents, saying only it was a letter of peace.

Observers said Saddam prop-

osed new negotiations over the status of the Shatt-Al-Arab Waterway.

In talking with reporters after his meeting with Perez de Cuellar, Aziz did not say if Rafsanjani himself had replied to Hussein's letter.

"I informed the secretary-general about the exchange of letters between the Iraqi and Iranian leadership.... We consider this a positive development which we would like to build upon in order to reach the understanding necessary for making peace," Aziz said.

Asked if there would be direct talks between the countries, Aziz replied: "I don't want to make

any hasty comments, but as I said, we consider this as a positive development and so does the secretary-general."

Aziz said he and Perez de Cuellar "did not go into specifics," including the possibility that the Iraqis would now accept some kind of shared sovereignty over the waterway.

Perez de Cuellar would not give details of the talks beyond saying their discussion dealt with the prospects of direct talks between Hussein and the Iranian president.

"We maintained some hope that things will start moving ahead in a positive manner," the U.N. leader said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 810740
 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632783

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
 Teresian Church Tel. 623266

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
 Anglican Church Tel. 623583, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351.
 Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
 Assiout International Church Tel. 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Klimatic weather conditions will prevail with the chance of showers particularly in the northern and eastern regions of the Kingdom. Clouds will appear at different altitudes and winds

will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be occasionally dusty with winds southerly moderate and calm seas.

Min./max. temp.
 Amman 16 / 31
 Aqaba 21 / 36
 Dornas 17 / 32
 Jordan Valley 15 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32.5, Aqaba 35.8. Humidity reading: Amman 16 per cent, Aqaba 9 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
 Dr. Khaled Hammad 795222
 Dr. Hisham Abu Argub 695122
 Dr. Ibrahim Kan'an 790286
 Fina Pharmacy 691912
 Fardous pharmacy 778336
 Al Asma pharmacy 637055
 Nairovich pharmacy 623672
 Al Salem pharmacy 636730
 Yarmouk pharmacy 644904
 Shamsieh pharmacy 637600

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 Nairovich pharmacy 623672
 Al Salem pharmacy 636730
 Yarmouk pharmacy 644904
 Shamsieh pharmacy 637600

Al Shams' pharmacy (985236)
 ZARQA:
 Dr. Hisham Hysant (—)
 Khafieh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
 Civil Defence Immediate 630341
 Civil Defence Emergency 199
 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
 Fire Brigade 891228
 Blood Bank 775121
 Highway Police 843432
 Highway Police 893990
 Traffic Police 66612737
 Al-Ahli, Abudai 6641645
 Rafsan, Al-Muhajirah 7771013
 Al-Basht, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
 Army, Marika 87431115
 Queen Aila Hospital 60224039
 Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 897467
 Amman Municipality 787111
 Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
 Overseas Calls 010230
 Central Amman Telephone 623101
 Abadit Telephone Repairs 661101
 Jordan Television 773111
 Radio Jordan 774111
 Water Authority 660100
 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
 Electric Power

Company 636381
 RJ Flight Information 08-53200
 Queen Aila Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
 Hisham Medical Centre 81383232
 Hisham Medical Centre 6442816
 Al-Khail Maternity, J. Amn 6244212
 Jabel Amman Maternity 643632
 Malhas, J. Amman 636140
 Palestine, Shamsieh 6641714
 Shamsieh Hospital 669151
 University Hospital 843945
 Al-Munshir Hospital 66727278
 The Islamic, Abudai 66612737
 Al-Ahli, Abudai 6641645
 Rafsan, Al-Muhajirah 7771013
 Al-Basht, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
 Army, Marika 87431115
 Queen Aila Hospital 60224039
 Amal Hospital 674135

ZARQA:
 Zarqa Govt. Hospital (07)983323
 Zarqa National Hospital (07)991071
 Ibn Sina Hospital (07)986732

Princess Beama Hospital (02)275555
 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72275
 Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)47100
 AQABA:
 Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

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 Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (02)22005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
 11:00 Aqaba (KU)
 11:00 Kuwait (KU)
 12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RU)
 12:20 Tunis, Cambronne (RU)
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MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg.
 Almonds 500 / 400
 Apple 800 / 650
 Bananas 500 / 450
 Bananas (Mukommara) 450 / 350
 Beans 400 / 320
 Broad beans 270 / 220
 Cabbage 90 / 60
 Carrot 120 / 80
 Cauliflower 300 / 250
 Cauliflowers (large) 150 / 100
 Cauliflowers (small) 280 / 240
 Dates 400 / 300
 Eggplant 200 / 160
 Garlic 450 / 400
 Lemon 320 / 280
 Lettuce (per one) 150 / 100
 Mallow 320 / 280
 Marrow (large) 180 / 120
 Marrow (small) 320 / 280
 Onion (dry) 120 / 100
 Onion (green) 300 / 150
 Orange 340 / 300
 Orange (Shamouti) 450 / 400
 Pepper (hot) 180 / 140
 Pepper (sweet) 180 / 140
 Potato 320 / 280
 Radish 150 / 100
 Sage 400 / 300
 Spinach 220 / 180
 Tomatoes 210 / 180
 Watermelon 70 / 220

DEPARTURES

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ACC labour ministers to discuss Arab workforce

SANAA (J.T.) — Ministers of labour and social development in Jordan and the Kingdom's partners in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) opened a three-day meeting in Sanaa Tuesday to reach final agreement on matters related to employment of workers from the ACC group and social security for these workers as well as matters related to national labour markets.

Jordan had earlier announced plans to give priority in employment to workers from the ACC countries which, besides Jordan, group North Yemen, Iraq and Egypt, should the need arise for the employment of non-Jordanians.

Minister of Labour Qusem Obaidat, who arrived here for the

meeting, said the ACC constituted a united force which could later be joined by the other Arab countries in total unity, without which the Arab Nation cannot exist.

ACC Secretary-General Hilmi Naimmar said the ministers would conclude an agreement on social security and reach a system for its implementation as well as a plan to allow any ACC country to employ workers from another member state, giving them priority over other Arab and foreign workers.

Naimmar said the agreement in Sanaa will be an elaboration of a draft plan reached by the ACC heads of state at their Sanaa meeting in September 1989.

'The government should do more to reinstate dismissed employees'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Steps taken so far on the part of the government to reinstate employees fired from their posts on political grounds are not enough and more speedy efforts ought to be taken to find jobs for the dismissed civil servants in line with declared government policy, according to Ahmad Azaideh, chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Public Freedoms and Citizens Rights Committee.

"Those who were either removed from office for political reasons or prevented from being employed in violation of the terms of constitution and Jordanian laws should be reinstated as soon as possible," Azaideh said at a meeting with the Director-General of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Mohammad Saeed Abu Nowar.

"The Parliament hopes the CSC will take speedy steps to redress this awkward situation in line with government policies," Azaideh said.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran earlier pledged that the government would re-employ all civil servants dismissed for political reasons.

According to government sources, 950 employees had been affected by previous government decisions denying them employment.

The Ministry of Education, for its part, announced plans to re-employ dismissed teachers and by the middle of last month a total of 191 teachers had been reinstated.

A Tuesday's meeting agreement was reached with the CSC, which takes charge of appointing

employees in various government offices, to supply the Parliament committee with a list of names of those dismissed including those who, so far, failed to apply for work at the CSC, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said CSC also agreed to give priority to the people dismissed in filling vacancies in government departments. The agency said the CSC had agreed to take into account the period during which the dismissed persons were not in office so as to be considered as part of service when they calculate pensions.

Azaideh called on all persons dismissed on political grounds to call at the CSC and apply for work. He also urged the CSC to try to find work for these people before the end of 1990.



His Royal Highness Prince Hassan Tuesday visits a pavilion at the construction materials fair held at the Amman International Fair Centre in Mary Al Hamam (Petra photo)

Construction materials fair highlights quality of products

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday visited an industrial fair displaying construction materials and praised the quality of products of 64 Jordanian firms and factories taking part in the fair.

Prince Hassan inspected all sections displaying a wide range of construction materials locally produced and was briefed on the volume of products that are marketed abroad after suffering the local needs.

Prince Hassan voiced hope that the national industrial businesses would double their efforts and produce goods of even better quality to compete with foreign brands in markets abroad.

Prince Hassan said that some of the national construction products had already reached West Germany and according to officials many high quality goods are being sold in Arab states.

The industrial fair which ended Tuesday displayed samples of glass, cement, brick, wires and cables, metal pipes, paint, nails, radiators, boilers, solar heaters, marble tiles, fibre glass, doors and shutters.

Prince Hassan said the industrial businesses ought to coordinate their operations with the housing sector and concerned organisations so that the business of producing construction materials can continue.

The Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) organised the fair in cooperation with the Housing Corporation, the Urban Development Department, the Royal Scientific Society and the Jordan Electricity Authority.

According to JCCC officials JD 15 million worth of local construction materials were sold to foreign countries in 1989, up from JD 8.2 million in 1988.

The construction industries in Jordan account for 13.2 per cent of the total national industry and, according to the officials, they employ 12.4 per cent of the total national workforce.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

IDB pledges support to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) pledged its support for the development plans in Jordan and stressed that the bank will finance the Jordanian exports to the countries of the Organization of Islamic Conference, according to Ali Qandil Shihadeh, head of the bank's export financing section. Shihadeh, now on a visit to Jordan, said the IDB has provided more than \$400 million to Jordan since 1977 to finance Jordan's oil imports, in addition to other types of assistance which Jordan received through other programmes of the bank. He pointed out that the bank had financed 58 export transactions, costing \$113.4 million during the past 33 months. The bank's contribution benefitted 7 countries, including Jordan.

Euro-Arab symposium to be held in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a meeting to be held at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis at the level of the permanent representatives, to discuss preparations and perceptions for the Euro-Arab cultural symposium which will be held in Jordan in 1991.

GUVS to organise seminar

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Jordan will organise a four-day special seminar on informational services to the handicapped persons in Jordan. An announcement said that the seminar, which will open at the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation building Saturday and last until Tuesday, will deal with a range of topics on providing better media and information services to the handicapped.

JEA to benefit from Kuwait loan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday announced its approval of a loan from the Kuwait-based Arab Economic and Social Fund to the Jordanian government. The JD 3.25 million loan will benefit the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) to finance its expansion projects in the Kingdom.

Palestine envoy to Jordan opens exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Jordan Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim Tuesday inaugurated a plastic art exhibition by the artist Husni Abu Karim held at Alia Art Gallery. The exhibition include 29 plates telling the story of the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Tafleeh to begin project implementation

TAFILEH (Petra) — The executive committee in charge of addressing the drought problem in Tafleeh governorate held a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Tafleeh Governor Khalaf Mahameh to discuss several issues on method of work and priorities of work. The committee decided to start implementing a number of agricultural, water and road projects in the governorate as of the beginning of June. Projects include maintenance and improvement of water resources and springs, afforestation and construction works.

AMO warns melon growers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Tuesday issued a warning to water melon growers to refrain from harvesting melons before they are fully ripe. An AMO statement said that it takes up to 120 days for the melons to ripe and that each melon should not weigh less than kilograms before it is cut. The AMO statement said that cutting melons before their due time can cause a big loss for the national economy.

Week film to be held at Alia Art Gallery

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Plastic Artists Association holds the international films week May 23, in which France, Britain, Holland, West Germany and the Soviet Union will participate. The week will be held at Alia Art Gallery.

Jordanians to design tourist posters

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Tourism has announced an invitation to Jordanians wishing to take part in an international competition to design special youth tourist posters aimed at promoting tourism and culture and youth activities as a way to promote the cause of world peace.

An announcement said the posters will be presented along others at an international tourist conference for youth to be held in India early next year and Jordan along with 100 other countries will take part in the meetings.

The delegates will participate in working out a comprehensive plan designed to promote tourism

for youths and drawing up national strategies for training local staff employed in the tourism industry, according to the announcement Tuesday.

It said the delegates would also be expected to lay down the basis for international cooperation in tourism.

According to the announcement, a special Jordanian committee comprising representatives of the ministries of tourism, education, youth and culture as well as Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, has been set up to supervise arrangements for participation in the contest.

The announcement said that

only people under 35 years of age can take part in the designing of posters which should appear in one of the languages recognised by the United Nations: English, Arabic, French, Spanish, Chinese or Russian.

It said all contributions should be channelled through the Ministry of Tourism not later than July 10, 1990 and added that gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the winners of the first, second and third prizes.

The winners will also be granted free return air tickets to India where they can also stay free of charge for a period of one week.

May fair to raise money for charity

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British Ladies of Amman (BLA) will hold their annual May fair this coming Friday with great hopes pinned on raising considerable funds for charitable activities around the country.

"We like to give small amounts to small charities that get overlooked by the large ones," says BLA treasurer Lesley Al Zaka.

"We look to help the poorest of the poor," she said.

During last year's May fair, the BLA raised approximately JD 8,400. JD 1,000 of this was donated to a fund for individual help offered through the refugee community centres for the disabled in the Balqa, Suf, Jerash and Husn refugee camps. Handicapped children were given calipers, medical boots, hearing aids. Operations were even performed on some of the children allowing some of them to stand normal.

With the money raised from the May fair, the BLA provides for the elderly with heating and grocery money on a monthly basis. The BLA also provides medicines for the Franciscan Sisters every three months. Children at a school for the deaf in Salt have also benefited from BLA donations, among

others.

With no administration structure as such, the BLA finds it necessary to work through recognised charities such as UNRWA or camp committees who provide advice and information on individual cases that need assistance. They do not get involved directly in the cases themselves but the question of who the assistance is to go to is usually decided by a committee of 13 BLA members.

"In the cases of other charity activities, a lot of money is lost through the administration, but that is not the case with us," Zaka said. "We look to get the most out of each dinar that is donated."

The BLA members, which number no more than 200, also offer their own time in helping the poor. A number of them for example pay regular visits to the Home of Peace. They also help British newcomers to the country to better understand Jordan.

Friday's May fair, which will be held in the garden of the British ambassador's residence between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. includes entertainment, games, food, refreshments, home made cake, jams and preserves, craft items, books, grand raffle, door prizes.

The entrance fees are one dinar for adults and JD 0.250 for children.

Chinese delegation visits meteorology department

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting delegation representing the Meteorology Department in China had a meeting here Tuesday with Dr. Ali Abanda, director-general of the Department of Meteorology in Jordan and toured the department's centres in different parts of Jordan.

The department owns installations to help forecast the weather conditions in Deir Alla, Wadi Al Yabes Al Baqoura, Ras Munif, Dubelei, Mafraq, and Irbid.

The delegation members heard Abanda outlining various aspects of meteorology work in Jordan

and later met with Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications Secretary-General Mohammad Smadi for further discussions.

The head of the delegation said China had put into space a satellite to help in the weather fore-

casting process and arrangements were underway to launch another satellite before the end of 1990.

The Chinese delegation Tuesday also toured archaeological and tourist sites in Jordan including the Greco-Roman city of Jerash.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Abir Abu Jodeh, Sanaa Al Bourial and Hadil Bassem at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Exhibition of original serial photos by Jane Taffel at hotel Jordan Intercontinental (all photos are for sale in aid of the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem).
- ★ Book exhibition at Mu'ta University.
- ★ Art exhibition by George Sarkis Kaplanian at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Art exhibition by Husein Al Turk at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by students of Nazareth Sisters School at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Husein Abu Elraym at the Alia Art Gallery.

FILM

- ★ Film "The Love Affair" at the British Council at 6:00 p.m.

CONFERENCES

- ★ Athletics medicine conference at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 p.m.

Jordan Times Tel: 667171-6

WHICH IS BETTER? WHICH IS TASTIER?

A seeded or a seedless Watermelon

NEW IN JORDAN

LOOK FOR THIS STICKER (in red and green)



Look for this sticker

Look for this sticker

Ask for seedless Watermelon from your local vegetable market. Each seedless fruit bears the above sticker

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Lopsided logic

U.S. VICE President Dan Quayle's logic is at best lopsided. He thinks that no matter how important the Palestinian "dimension" is to a resolution of the conflict, the conflict between Israel and the Arab countries is at least equally important and must also be addressed. So he recently urged the Arab states to "reach out" to Israel and provide "the kind of supportive environment so necessary to a viable Israeli-Palestinian dialogue."

We were totally unaware that the Israeli government was tripping over itself trying to provide the supportive environment in order to make peace with the Arabs. Mr. Quayle must have gotten his perceptions of various conflicts around the world confused.

One fails to understand what Mr. Quayle has in mind in terms of Arabs reaching out to the Israelis. Did the Vice President know for example that as far back as 1982 the Arabs, in a summit meeting of their leaders, recognised Israel's right to exist and offered it peace in exchange for land? Did he know that since 1967 Arabs have accepted all U.S. administrations' peace proposals and Israel has rejected them?

If Mr. Quayle and the West accept the right of Jews, who lived in Palestine in Biblical times, to gather from the four corners of the world and return to the "promised land," how could they deny the Palestinians, who were forced to leave their ancestral homeland in 1948, 1967 and beyond, their right to return and establish their homeland and state?

If Dan Quayle and his Israeli friends are genuinely and sincerely seeking peace in the Middle East they should recognise the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, sit with them, negotiate, reach peace, then Israel and the Arabs can establish normal relations and live happily ever after. Until that happens Palestine and the Palestinians, whom Mr. Quayle termed only as a dimension of the conflict, will continue to dominate Arab minds and hearts. If Mr. Quayle and the Israelis continue to wait until the so-called supportive environment materialises without taking any constructive steps towards a peaceful resolution to the conflict then they might not find the Arab hand of peace extended for much longer.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies on Tuesday discussed the 42nd anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine by Zionist forces, emphasising Arab rights in Palestine and expressing Arab people's determination to pursue the struggle for return.

No matter how huge the forces that stand in the way of Arab rights and no matter how ferocious the enemy is, the Arab rights are firm and real, and nothing can stop the Arab people from regaining them, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Arab self-confidence and determination to pursue the struggle should indicate that it is only a matter of time before the return of Palestinians to their lands is achieved, said the paper. It said that Palestinian people's uprising serve as a ray of hope which could not be extinguished by four decades of occupation, and the ongoing struggle in the occupied territories manifest the Arabs will to defy international conspiracies of occupation and emigration. More hope is seen in the Arab World's convening of a summit meeting in Baghdad to chart a new strategy for the Arab World, one that can mobilise Arab countries' economic, political and military potentials to confront the enemy, the paper added. It said that May 15 should not be an anniversary for grief in the Arab World, but rather a moment for contemplation and optimism over prospects of a brighter future for the Arabs who are determined to end injustice in their land.

The huge masses who participated in the "right of return" march in the Jordan Valley Monday proved to all institutions and political groups in the Kingdom that nothing can stand in the way of the masses and their right to express their feelings freely, says Abdel Rahim Omar in a column published in Al Ra'i Tuesday. The masses have marched under the scorching sun towards the bridge in a show of solidarity with their brothers and sisters in the occupied Arab territory, and in manifestation of a strong will to continue the struggle, the writer notes. The participants all knew that the march was not a picnic and yet unexpected huge numbers of people gathered at the site in response to calls by the organisers who aimed to express support for the intifada, the writer adds. He says that the professional unions in Jordan are to be commended for their immense efforts in this regard, and in pursuing a course of rallying Arab support for the Palestinian people's rights.

Despite the elapse of more than 40 years since the creation of the Jewish state in the midst of the Arab World at the expense of the Palestinian people, Zionist efforts have not succeeded in imposing Israel's domination in our region, said Al Dustour Arabic daily Tuesday. The paper said Israel is not recognised by the Arabs who see in it an entity bent on expansion and aggression; and one that based its policies on wars against the Arab people and oppression against the Palestinians. The Arabs refuse to recognise Israel's existence despite its formidable military force; and they continue to fight for their rights in Palestine regardless of the sacrifices, said the paper. As the Arabs remember the dark day when their Palestine was usurped, said the paper, they also witness stones falling on the heads of the invaders, reminding the Zionists of the fact that they are rejected and cannot stay in Arab territory for ever.

Economic Forum

Something called absorptive capacity

By Abdalla Malki

IF YOU cannot consume all your income and other sorts of revenues that accrue to you in the form of grants from relatives, friends or the government you will end up with a financial surplus which, in national accounting terminology, is called savings. If you cannot invest this surplus by yourself, you will lend it to other parties directly, or indirectly through banks. When we apply this analysis to a country, the financial surplus goes abroad. This was exactly what had happened to Arab countries during the late seventies and early eighties and led to the phenomenon of Arab funds or investments abroad which were largely petrodollars.

It is estimated that there are around \$700-750 billion of Arab investments abroad.

These take the form of deposits with banks to the tune of \$500 billion; the balance goes to other direct and portfolio investments (shares, bonds, real estate, factories, service enterprises). There are a host of forces which led to the exodus of these mammoth funds which are surrounded by all sorts of fallacies and myths.

It has been said that these funds are more than adequate to repay the \$180 billion of Arab external debt. This is an arithmetic fallacy because the Arab owners of these funds are not the Arab debtors, which means that they are not available for debt repayment unless their Arab owners are willing to re-lend them to Arab debtors. That is almost an impossible assumption. Even within individual Arab countries, this assumption does not

work because the holders of deposits relating to any debtor Arab country are normally individuals and private firms that will not lend them to their government to be used for retiring its external debt. However, remember that these funds were in the first place sent abroad to avoid being "captured" by governments.

Although very remote, the only realistic way of utilising Arab financial surpluses kept abroad to solve pan-Arab economic problems, including external debt, is to invest them in Arab countries. If every thing goes on very well, (and this is a biggest "if"), such investments will boost economic growth in Arab countries and later on enhance the capacity of Arab countries to repay their debts.

Many idealists will say that this is possible and demand it

be done. From a nationalistic viewpoint, it must be done but the story is different in economic and practical terms. Arab savers will not bring their financial surpluses back into the Arab countries until the investment climate, which frightened them away in the first place has changed. This is a profound process which can be accomplished only over extended periods of time, if ever so, and with very drastic shifts in the basics of Arab economic policies.

Irrespective of national ideals and good intentions, assume, for the sake of analysis, that there is a willingness to move in this direction. The whole process will be frustrated if the Arab economies do not have the necessary absorptive capacity. In the absence of such capacity, Arab

capital will be employed in bad investments and at high capital intensities which amount to squandering the above-mentioned surpluses. This means low capital return and thereby nasty economic and national setbacks. We shall have lost our surpluses and retained our external debts. This is not national cooperation but collective suicide. But what is absorptive capacity?

Absorptive capacity is the ability to use capital productively. The adverb "productively" does make all the differences as it draws the line between economic sense and wishful thinking. In a symposium on Arab investments abroad, one of the audience said he believed that Sudan alone can absorb all Arab financial surpluses. That is

absolutely true, but at what level of productivity? We certainly can pour all Arab financial surpluses even in one city and have buildings and stores of marble and golden doors. But then the rate of return to capital will be approximately zero. The surpluses will be destroyed in a single cycle.

In the absence of absorptive capacity, Arab financial surpluses repatriated to the Arab World will be used either for importing unnecessary capital goods (through very high capital/output ratios) or to finance consumption expenditures (with high import contents). In both cases, part of them will be consumed and the remainder ends up again in Western markets and banks after a journey made futile due to the defiance of economic rules.

Nepalese like change, want monarchy to stay

By Rajendra Bajpai
Reuters

SUNTHAL, Nepal — Farmer Keshab Bahadur Keshi is delighted with Nepal's political reforms but he still thinks the country should remain a monarchy.

Working on his small terraced farm in Verdant hills 40 kilometres from Kathmandu, 34-year-old Keshi is glad that the old panchayat (council) system has finally crumbled.

Keshi hopes new Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai will be fair and share power with King Birendra, an absolute ruler, regarded by many Nepalese as the incarnation of the Hindu deity Vishnu.

Bhattarai, who came to power after massive pro-democracy demonstrations last month, heads an interim coalition of his Nepali Congress Party and a Communist-led alliance.

"We need a monarchy," said Keshi. "We must have a king but he should share the power with the people."

Life in the hills of Nepal, one of the world's poorest countries, is tough for Keshi and other small farmers but the panchayat system made it more difficult.

It transformed the political climate. Freedom was again in the air and Nepalese liked it.

Keshi said he was against the panchayat system because its members lined their own pockets.

"When funds come for building a canal in the village and a road they just disappear," he said.

The metalled road from Kathmandu abruptly comes to an end in the small trading town of Panauti. From there a mud track leads to Sunthal three kilometres away.

"My neighbour's house in the village burnt down two years ago. After running around for 14 months the government gave him compensation of 250 rupees (\$10) which was not enough to make a cow shed," he said.

When another house burnt down in the same village, that owner received good compensation within a month and the government gave him corrugated iron sheets to use as a roof.

"What kind of a system was that? It was good only for influential people," Keshi said.

"As soon as we have a constitution and elections are held I think the quality of life will change, or at least I am hoping it will," he said.

There is no drinking water in the village and the nearest well is 15 minutes walk from Sunthal. There is a primary school but the high school is in Panauti.

Keshi produces enough rice, wheat and maize on his farm to sustain him, his wife and two sons for six months of the year.

When he has harvested his own crops, he goes to work on the farms of big landlords as a casual worker on daily wages.

Keshi is poor but luckier than many others. He went to school for eight years.

When he heard on his radio that Bhattarai's Congress party had formed an interim coalition government with the Communists, he decided to join the Nepali Congress.

"I thought about joining the Communists. But I don't want to work under their discipline or take orders from them. So I thought I'd join the Congress and lead my life as I want to," he said.

"We must have a king but he should share the power with the people"

"Panchayat was an unfair system and helped only those who had good connections. They were whispering men who had never discussed things openly," he said.

Keshi listened on his radio to news of the violence and curfews in Kathmandu last month and was glad when the king agreed to dissolve the panchayat system and allow a multi-party democracy.

Days after police shot dead dozens of people among thousands of pro-democracy campaigners attempting to storm the royal palace, King Birendra finally succumbed to the demands.

The tip of an iceberg

To the Editor

I HAVE been watching with great concern the events of the past week and feel that I must bring a very vital point to the attention of my fellow citizens.

I am referring to the decision taken by the Ministry of Interior to ban male hairdressers. The matter, in and of itself, is quite trivial when compared to the state of affairs of our country, but it has far-reaching consequences.

The important issue here is the encroachment upon the civil liberties of the silent majority in an attempt to appease the moral indignation of a vocal but powerful minority. Some people may find it repulsive for a male stranger to run his fingers through a woman's hair. It is their right, in a free country, to be repulsed by such a thing, as it is their right to vocalise this repulsion. But it is not the government's responsibility to submit to the whims of this vocal minority at the expense of the Constitution. I understand that there was a Higher Court ruling in 1980 permitting male hairdressers to practice their profession. Given that fact, since when has the executive branch of a true democracy violated the rulings of the judiciary?

We must all beware of these small infringements upon our constitutional rights, because, by allowing them to pass unopposed, we are, through our apathy, sanctioning the future violation of our basic right to choose the way in which we want to run our lives.

In light of the above, I encourage all of you who are part of the silent majority, to cry out in opposition to this violation of our rights. For if you remain silent, don't be surprised if big brother comes knocking on your brain to find out how "clean" your thoughts are.

Jamal Al Jaberi
Amman.

Drug war: Worst U.S. policy failure since Vietnam

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

WASHINGTON — After 25 years as an international undercover narcotics agent, Michael Levine has strong opinions about the U.S. drugs war. He calls it "the biggest, costliest, most dangerous failure of American policy since Vietnam".

Fifteen years after the United States lost the war in Vietnam, Washington's war on drugs is a subject of controversy both at home and in Latin America, which produces most of the cocaine and much of the heroin consumed by a seemingly insatiable U.S. market.

Levine's comparison with the Vietnam war comes in the introduction of a book, "Deep Cover", which he wrote after retiring from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) where he had won several awards for outstanding work.

The book describes an undercover operation against Bolivian drug lords that failed, Levine asserts, because of bureaucratic bungling, in-fighting and rivalry between the DEA and U.S. customs.

There has been no official comment on the former agent's blow-by-blow account of the operation, code-named Trifecta, but figures back up his gloomy conclusion that more seizures and more arrests do not mean that the war is being won.

In 1989, the year President George Bush declared war on drugs — as every president since

Richard Nixon has done — U.S. authorities seized almost a billion dollars in drug smugglers' assets and impounded 32 tonnes of cocaine.

The seizures set new records but failed to disrupt the huge domestic market for illicit drugs, the profits from which rival those of General Motors. Even the world's biggest single cocaine bust — 21 tonnes in Los Angeles — did not lead to shortages or price increases.

In the same year, according to U.S. figures, world-wide production of cocaine, opium and marijuana soared despite a U.S.-led campaign to eradicate drug crops.

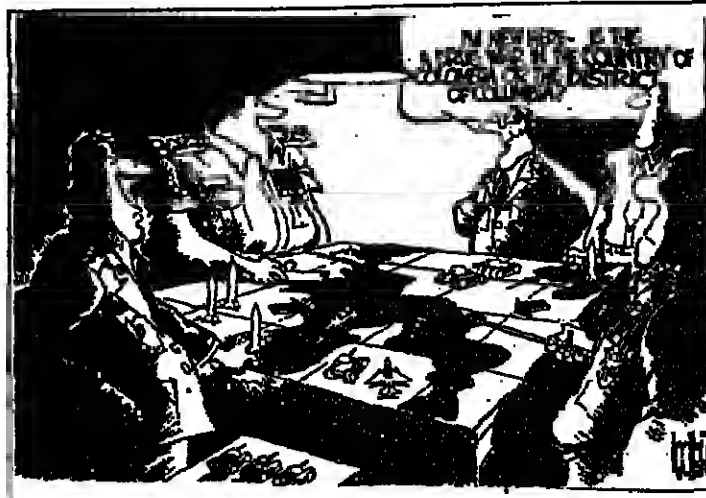
The lack of success prompted the Bush administration to bring its vast military intelligence network, complete with radar surveillance, planes and spy satellites, into "drugs war".

In Latin America, the U.S. is tending towards closer direct involvement of its troops and anti-drug agents.

In the heart of Peru's coca-growing region, for example, the United States has built a fortified military base. Its perimeter defences, sand-bagged bunkers and landing pads for helicopters invite comparisons with Vietnam.

Manned jointly by DEA agents and Peruvian anti-narcotics police, the base serves as a launching pad for helicopter raids on clandestine airstrips and cocaine laboratories in the surrounding jungles.

The raids have had limited effect, U.S. officials admit, but they have prompted a spate of



warnings that Washington, little by little, is being drawn into the bloody civil war between the Peruvian government and guerrillas of the Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) movement.

The Guerrillas have formed a tactical alliance with coca farmers, protecting plantations in return for "taxes" that help them finance an insurgency which has killed at least 12,000 people.

Undeterred by criticism of its on-the-ground involvement in Latin America, the U.S. government announced in April that it would spend \$35 million on military assistance and training. According to U.S. officials, army instructors are set to begin counter-insurgency training before the end of the year.

"Washington is favouring a military approach to the international aspect of the drug crisis even though a U.S. military presence or use of force is seen as an affront to national sovereignty by many Latin Americans," said Larry Birns, director of the private Washington Council on Hemispheric Affairs.

Several perceived U.S. violations of Latin American sovereignty have undermined the

drug war recently, despite a new spirit of cooperation between Washington and Latin American countries.

In the latest dispute over U.S. methods, the Mexican government has threatened to limit the number and activities of DEA agents assigned to Mexico under diplomatic cover.

The dispute was set off by the cloak-and-dagger abduction of a Mexican physician, Humberto Alvarez Natchin, to stand trial in the U.S. on charges of complicity in the 1985 murder of DEA undercover agent Enrique Camarena.

Such incidents underline fundamental differences of approach between the United States and Latin America.

Latin Americans tend to suspect that much-publicised military assistance and displays of force are apt more to boost the popularity rating of U.S. politicians than to end the drug problem.

What is really needed, Latin Americans say, is help in long-term economic restructuring, compensation for coca growers who switch to other crops, and a better deal for the region's legal exports, such as coffee.

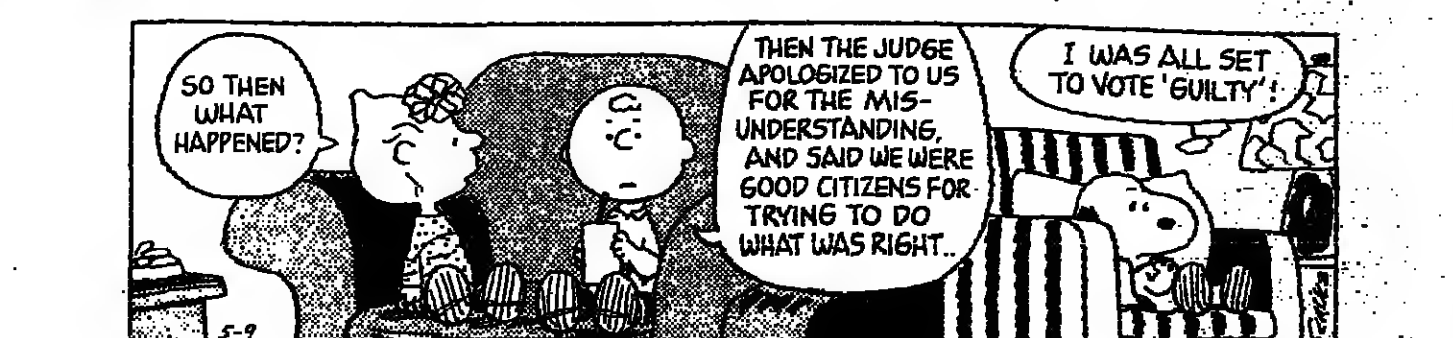
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Peanuts



End of cold war fails to warm prospects for peace in Mideast

By Lamis K. Andoni

This is the third part of a report on a symposium on "U.S. Policy in the Middle East" held in Amman last week. The fourth and final part will be published in tomorrow's issue.

AMMAN — Is theory the end of the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union should contribute to accelerating the Middle East peace process. But in practice, a relative inactivity of the two superpowers in the process and to other international and regional factors seem to work to impede peace efforts and increase the threats posed by the current impasse.

This is the assessment shared by a group of Arab and American scholars who attended a seminar organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) held in Amman May 5-7. But the academics and scholars differ in their evaluation of why the end of the cold war is having, at least in the short-term, an adverse effect rather than boosting peace efforts in the region. They also vary in their views of the responsibilities and roles of the various parties involved in the conflict to revive the peace process.

Arguments that the end of the cold war should contribute to peace efforts were essentially based on the conclusion that the polarisation of military power has been abandoned, the inevitability of the conflict between capitalism and communism has been lost ground, and that there is an agreement between the two superpowers to settle regional disputes through peaceful means.

Yet at the same time, the immediate consequences of the upheaval in Eastern Europe and the new détente are threatening to undermine Middle East stability, according to the underlying arguments of many of the participants.

A major factor triggering an adverse effect of the end of the cold war on the Middle East is viewed to be a "decrease of Soviet support" for the "radical" Arab states and the Palestine

Liberation Organisation (PLO), particularly in terms of arm supplies, and pressures reportedly exerted on Syria to abandon its goal of achieving strategic parity with Israel.

In the words of Dr. Everett Mendelson, a prominent Middle East expert from the University of Harvard, "from the Arab side there has been a clear perception that the Soviet Union should be counted upon on providing an automatic counterpart" to American pressures.

In other words, at least in the immediate term, it could be argued that in view of the continuing U.S. support for Israel, the balance of power has been further offset in favour of Israel, putting the Arabs in direct confrontation with the U.S.

Dr. Mendelson, author of a book on the Middle East entitled "A Compassionate Peace," argued in a working paper that a combination of Moscow's withdrawal of its effective support for its allies, the American emphasis on the Middle East and the failure so far of the emergence of a new U.S. policy to adjust the changing Soviet role are actually impeding the process.

Another factor, cited by most scholars as either hindering or even undermining the peace process, is the mass Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. The new Soviet policy of allowing thousands of Soviet Jews to leave, together with the conditions confining their destination almost exclusively to Israel, is seen as a direct byproduct of the end of the cold war. Although such a view was expressed by all participants except Dr. Marshall Goldman, who argued that the influx of Soviet Jews should prompt Arab leaders to "speed the process," opinions varied on the immediate official Israeli position in the short term.

The point of dispute was whether the Israeli leaders would opt for a military escalation in the immediate future or would actually maintain a low profile position to avoid international condemnation at a historic stage where peaceful settlements of conflicts is the name of the game in the emerging new equation between the superpowers.

Dr. Tahsin Bashir, an Egyptian ambassador and scholar, argued that Israel might avoid a military escalation for fear of discouraging the influx of Soviet Jews. He also maintained that Israel might keep a very low profile to allow itself time to absorb and settle the Soviet Jews without inviting undue international attention or reaction.

Others argued that Israel might seize the opportunity of Soviet "abandonment" of its Arab allies, and the U.S. "emphasis" on Eastern Europe and launch a limited operation to decrease the pressure of the intifada and pave the way for a forced exodus of Palestinians to Jordan.

Many agreed, however, that the Israeli reaction heavily hinged on the course of its internal political crisis, the Arab position, and finally prospects of the progress of the peace process. But the clear implication was that the end of the cold war on its own — particularly as the U.S. continues its support of Israel — was not sufficient to bring about peace in the region.

At one stage in his paper entitled "The End of the Cold War: Implications for Israeli-Palestinian Peace Making," Dr. Mendelson argued that as regional disputes stop to be "flash-points from which escalation might lead to superpower wars" their importance to superpowers are "greatly reduced."

On the other hand, one of the questions which appeared to remain unanswered was: Would either of the superpowers allow one of its "allies or former allies" to provoke instability in a hot region and consequently drag it into a confrontation with the

other power or its allies.

So far at least, judging by developments cited by most scholars in the seminar, while the Soviet Union seems to be prodding its allies, including the PLO, Syria and even Afghanistan, towards peaceful solutions, the U.S. has not been exerting the same practical efforts — i.e. though reducing arms and financial support to steer Israel towards a more flexible position.

In other terms, the American position did not appear to parallel that of the Soviet reduction of support of the parties in the conflict.

But the assessment that these attitudes have been accompanied by further detachment by both powers was contested during the discussions. U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth strongly disagreed arguing that his country was still very much concerned over the Middle East process. He disclosed that, at a recent meeting of American ambassadors to the Middle East with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in West Germany, it was agreed that the U.S. would and should continue its active engagement in the peace process.

The American ambassador, however, implied that the Soviet Union's role — which has been repeatedly emphasised by the Arabs — has declined since the death of late Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser, and particularly after the 1973 war.

Dr. Ghassan Salameh, a Lebanese political scientist, presented a completely different analysis about the future role of the Soviet Union in the region. In his view, mainly due to its proximity to the region, the Soviet Union will continue to be very interested in the Middle East. He cited three factors which will actually increase the importance of the region to Moscow:

Most of the problems and developments in the area, mainly the rise of Islamic fundamentalism and Zionism itself, are by no means exclusive foreign policy concerns for the Soviets. "In fact

these very domestic concerns would reflect heavily on the internal trends and developments in the Soviet Union," he said.

— The Soviet Union would soon be interested in securing oil supplied from the region, and therefore is interested in the Gulf states.

— As the region continues to be infested with missiles, the Soviet Union cannot ignore the threat. "They will be mostly concerned about Israeli missiles which can reach the Soviet Union," he argued.

In a later interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Salameh went even further by contradicting all recent theories about the diminishing role of the Soviet Union. According to Dr. Salameh, Moscow is working towards a long-term strategy to increase its influence and diminish and if not even exclude the American role. He said that such a strategy is partly dictated by objective developments, mainly the end of the cold war, which makes the region more relevant to both the Soviet Union and Europe. "The U.S. is finally expected to withdraw and focus its attention, and this is already happening in its back-porch in Latin America."

Therefore, Salameh does not think that by succumbing to U.S. pressures to allow Soviet Jewish emigration, Moscow is undermining its long-term strategy but it is a tactical move that will eventually contribute to limiting Soviet intervention in the region.

In other words the Lebanese writer implied that Moscow was making short-term concessions to serve its long-term goals.

An issue which did not seem adequately addressed during the dialogue — according to observers — is how the end of the cold war would affect the role of Israel. The question that remained unanswered was:

Is Israel losing its role as a strategic ally of the U.S. to counter the "Soviet and communist danger," or does it have a new role which ensures continuous American support?



The Dead Sea (photo by Arsalan Ramadan)

Dead Sea water, air and sun help thousands

By Miriam Jordan
Reuters

EIN BOKEK — At one of the lowest points on earth, men and women stand naked for hours under a sweltering Dead Sea sun.

"To be exposed to the sun here eight hours a day works like a miracle. I go home cured," said Ruth Franz, 45, from Mannheim, West Germany, who has had the skin disease psoriasis for over a decade.

Her friend Heike von Lentzke of Munich who has psoriasis, said: "In three days here I am better than after weeks in the Canary Islands."

Four hundred metres below sea level, on the lowest exposed land on earth, the women bathe in the dense mineral-rich Dead Sea water that helps rid their bodies of spots which powerful creams and drugs never cured.

Scientists estimate that between one and three per cent of the population in Western countries has some form of psoriasis. At least six million Americans have the disease, they say.

Muscular and joint pains, chronic arthritis and vitiligo, a skin disease which causes loss of pigmentation, are also helped by the Dead Sea.

But psoriasis sufferers are the biggest clients. The come from all over the world seeking relief from the red blotches and scales which can cover their entire bodies.

The disease is not contagious or dangerous but victims often regard themselves as social lepers. Many are afraid to be seen in public and have difficulty finding partners. They look forward to winter when they can cover their bodies.

Research has shown that af-

ter four weeks, more than 70 per cent of the psoriasis sufferers at the Dead Sea are cleared or almost completely cleared of the disease for periods of three months to several years. The rest show at least some improvement.

Some 1,000 naked women and men with skin trouble crowd the segregated beach on the Dead Sea shore — soaking up sun where they most need it. Many have been coming here for years.

Israel and Jordan have spas on opposite sides of the sea. On the Israeli side new hotels are sprouting to cater for the boom in tourism from Europe.

"Doctors in the United States just gave me cortisone creams. I got fevers and then the psoriasis came back worse," said Maria Helena Mansur, 38, of Guayaquil, Ecuador, who first contracted the disease after a car crash.

"I come here every year for a month in the spring and I am free (of psoriasis) until November," she said, adding that it was her eighth visit to the Dead Sea.

Zvi Even-Paz, a dermatologist who has been studying the Dead Sea for more than 30 years, said: "The Dead Sea avoids most of the dangers of modern, high-powered treatments."

Since ancient times the sea has been known for its healing qualities. Its sunshine, water and air are unique. Together they form a magic mix that helps thousands each year.

"To isolate one contributory factor from another is very difficult. The total effect is very beneficial," Even-Paz said.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle was among the first to mention this stretch of water. It was so salty no fish lived in it

nor could a bound man sink, he reported in about 350 B.C.

Rich Romans imported containers of Dead Sea water to Italy.

The Dead Sea is the world's most saline lake. Its 30 per cent salt content makes it 10 times saltier than the oceans and it is rich in magnesium, potassium, calcium and sulphur.

Magnesium helps combat skin allergies and bronchitis. The high concentration of mineral salts gives the water a buoyancy which facilitates the movement of ailing joints and eases paralysis, muscular stiffness and fractures.

Rheumatism and arthritis sufferers seek therapy from the Dead Sea's sulphur-rich springs and black mud.

The mud comes from alluvial deposits rich in organic animal and plant remains and lake salts and minerals. Its elasticity and heat retention are said to give arthritis patients relief for three months to a year.

Dead Sea sunshine is also safer, doctors there say.

The most harmful ultra-violet rays are weakened below sea level and evaporating water provides an extra shield. This enables people to sunbathe much longer at less risk, they say.

Water enters from the Jordan River, from a few springs and streams along its shores and from winter floods down mountain ravines. The lake has no outlet but is depleted by evaporation.

Mak John, whose psoriasis covered 35 per cent of his body before he came to the Dead Sea, said he wished he could take some of the magic potion home to New York.

"I've been in Florida, China and France and nothing helped. Here it just finishes," he said.

Food, a two-year headache for Olympic caterer

By Alex Scott
Reuters

BARCELONA — Josep Maria Prieto is preparing to cater for a rather large family gathering — the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Prieto expects to provide about two million meals over 30 days to the "Olympic family" of athletes, journalists, judges, volunteers and guests scattered over the city, many of them with special diets.

"We must not forget any detail, so we can avoid any surprise," he said.

Prieto, head of catering for the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee (COOB), knows he is facing a logistical nightmare. Suppliers need plenty of time to build up their stocks in advance.

"If you assume we have to provide 250 grammes of meat a day to some 15,000 people, we will need more than 100,000 kilos of meat. You can't find this overnight," he said.

And organisers will have to specify the cuts of meat they want, how thick the steak and from what part of the animal, so that butchers can do their work. At the moment, Prieto is largely working on hypotheses of what will be needed, how much and where but final estimates have to be drawn up before the end of this year for things to be ready in time for the games.

From past experience, he predicts that some 31 per cent of the "Olympic family" will come from eastern and northern Europe, 19 per cent from the United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand, 15 per cent from the Far East, 13 per cent from the Mediterranean, 12 per cent from Africa and 10 per cent from Latin America.

The organisers' guiding principle is to provide the widest range of food available in keeping with the Olympic philosophy of mixing people through the games.

As an example of his commitment to that aim, Prieto says he hopes to provide at least three quarters of many different types of bread eaten around the world. In practice, during any 24-hour period, guests will be able to choose from a variety of foods which will take into account their habits, religions, training diets and personal tastes.

Although COOB has overall responsibility for catering, the

work will be sub-contracted to specialist firms which need to be inspected and licensed well in advance so that planning can be carried out in time for the games. Prieto expects quality control to be one of the biggest headaches, given the problem of maintaining acceptable standards of hygiene when serving food during in the hot Mediterranean summer.

"It would be a disaster if anything went wrong," he said. Athletes and officials will be scattered during the day among 44 sites in Barcelona and the surrounding region. Between July 11 and Aug. 2, Prieto expects only 59 per cent of the 15,000 residents to be at the Olympic village during the day, with the rest taking part in their events.

Cold packed lunches will be taken in refrigerated lorries to competitors at their venues. Prieto expects the Spanish catering industry, used to feeding millions of tourists, to take the bulk of contracts. He says firms will not necessarily be chosen on the basis of past experience.

One relief is that he is not in charge of feeding the estimated 400,000 people expected to attend the games. "I've got enough to do without that," he said.

And another relief is that he will not have to worry about providing alcoholic drinks and cigarettes — both are banned from sale on the Olympic premises.

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Low voter turnout forces extension

(Continued from page 1)

contesting the elections in a sort of quota that was negotiated with the tribe's leaders as an acquired right, one resident explained.

The Chichin's who number several thousand among the city's 450,000-strong population and who secured the post of mayor of Zarqa for themselves several times in the past, have only one candidate in these elections — Nabil Kamel Shishani, running as part of the Islamic Action Bloc.

The Chichins, an offshoot of Circassians, are a minority ethnic group who are said to be the main founders of the city of Zarqa over 100 years ago after their exodus from the Soviet Union.

The "National Bloc," which fields 10 candidates, are backed by leftists including Zarqa Deputy Bassam Haddadin of the People's Democratic Party and Fakhri Kassar, a former resident of Zarqa and presently a deputy for Amman who was active with the group during the campaign.

Kassar led a protest march Sunday after the cancellation of a public rally for the National Bloc over the governor's decision not to allow musical groups to perform at the rally. About 1,500 people took part in the protest which ended soon afterwards after a minor clash with police.

The "Action and Reform Bloc," with 10 candidates, consists of liberals, technocrats and traditional personalities. The "Unity Bloc," which is also fielding 10 candidates, is considered an independent semi-tribal group with relations to large families in the city.

Only four candidates are running as independents. The city of Zarqa, about 20 kilometres north-east of Amman, is a semi-industrial over-crowded urban centre which is predominantly inhabited by lower middle class and low income people. The municipality is facing several problems in the city related to illegal construction of houses and property and land disputes that have continued for

several years. The government, which refuses to recognise illegal housing (built without licensing), would not extend basic services such as water and electricity to these houses. There are many cases of land confiscation by the municipality and disputes continue over compensations.

The municipal committee, which has been appointed by the government, had been accused of mismanagement by an investigation committee appointed by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs. The city is also plagued by traffic jams and street vendors and police regularly launch campaigns to remove them from the streets. The financial situation of the municipality, however, is more sound than many other municipalities in the Kingdom, according to Ministry of Municipal Affairs sources. This is largely due to income-generating projects that successive Zarqa civil administrators have built and owned for the city, the sources said.

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Benn fights Barkley in August

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Nigel Benn will face Iran Barkley of the United States in his first defense of the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) mid-weight crown at a British venue Aug. 18.

American promoter Bob Arum said Monday the most likely venue was Old Trafford soccer stadium in Manchester and that both bouts would be guaranteed at least \$1 million.

But one issue which needs to be sorted out is an eye problem which has troubled Barkley, the former World Boxing Council (WBC) mid-weight champion.

The American had an operation in December, and reports at the time said it was for a detached retina, rather than a detached retina.

The British Boxing Board of Control have a strict medical rule governing the return of boxers after detached retina treatment.

"The British medical panel are dead set against people who have had eye damage like this returning to the ring," board secretary John Morris said.

Ferguson hopes for F.A. Cup salvation

LONDON (R) — After a season of drama and disappointment, Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson looks to Wembley Thursday as the source of his salvation.

But after watching his team draw 3-3 in Saturday's enthralling English F.A. Cup final, Ferguson knows Crystal Palace will be no easy opponents in Thursday evening's replay.

Despite starting as favourites for a seventh title, United came close to a historic defeat due to some appalling goalkeeping by Scotland international Jim Leighton and two fine goals by Palace's second-half substitute Ian Wright.

But United's £13 million (\$20 million) line-up still looks likely to triumph in the end, despite the defensive gaps and several missed chances in Saturday's match.

"There were times when we didn't defend well," Ferguson admitted then in a piece of understatement that could sum up the season spent perilously close to the relegation zone.

Booted by the fans earlier in the season and with the media busily predicting his imminent departure, Ferguson has relied on success in the F.A. Cup as a managerial lifeline.

He can take comfort from the knowledge that the last time United drew an F.A. Cup final — against Brighton in 1983 after almost losing — they easily won the replay 4-0.

The final replay is the fourth in the last 10 years and will go to a penalty shoot-out for the first time in F.A. Cup history if it again ends in a draw after extra-time.

South Londoners Palace, enjoying their first F.A. Cup final, are happy in the knowledge that they have already achieved far more than they dreamed of at the start of the season.

They have also turned a tidy profit from the cup, with manager Steve Coppell expected to have an extra £750,000 (\$1.2 million) to spend on players next season.

"We haven't any debts. We don't owe anybody anything. So unless we throw it away, we've got it to spend," Palace Chairman Ron Nokes said of the unexpected cup windfall.

Both clubs hope to have full-strength squads although United have a worry about defender Gary Pallister, who damaged an ankle Saturday and has only a 50-50 chance of playing.

United were also worried about reserve goalkeeper Les Sealey, who was on loan from Luton until last Saturday, but the Football League has granted him a week's extension.

Palace's Wright, who broke his leg twice in three months this season, is expected to start on the bench again Thursday due to continued doubts about his fitness over 90 minutes.

The replay has also caused mayhem with international fixtures involving British and Irish teams and has also affected the Uruguayan national team's World Cup warm-up plans.

The Uruguayans had been due to play Northern Ireland in Belfast Thursday but the game was postponed by a day in order to guarantee sufficient revenue from the match.

"We require an income of £80,000 (\$128,000) to break even and there is no way we would have got that in competition with the cup final replay," Irish Football Association Secretary Dave Bowen said.

England manager Bobby Robson has also had to do without midfielder Bryan Robson, bidding to become the first captain to win the cup three times, for England's friendly international against Denmark at Wembley Tuesday.

Mandlikova displays new style

WEST BERLIN (AP) — Former French Open champion Hana Mandlikova returned to tennis Monday at the \$500,000 German Open with a new training method and a new attitude.

The 15th-seeded Mandlikova, who last played a tournament six weeks ago, downed Shaun Stafford of the United States 6-4, 6-3 in first-round action.

Isabel Cneto of West Germany was the only seed to be ousted. The no. 11 seed lost 4-6, 7-6, 6-1 to qualifier Florentina Labat of Argentina.

In other matches, no. 9 seed Judith Wiesner of Austria, 10th seed Nathalie Tauziat of France, 13th seed Leila Meskhi of the Soviet Union, 14th seed Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden and 16th seed Sandra Cecchini of Italy all advanced.

Meskhi had the most impressive win of the day in overwhelming Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 6-0, 6-0.

The top eight seeds all had byes into the second round.

Mandlikova, who has earned a reputation for being unpredictable and often too bearded, showed none of those traits as she outplayed the 73rd-ranked Stafford.

Unlike many of her counterparts, the 28-year-old Australian resident has cut down on practice and believes that will add a new dimension to her game.

"I have been practicing only two hours a day, but I am working 100 per cent. ... technically if everything is working, everything falls into place. If I lose my timing, it's difficult to play," Mandlikova said.

"As for the way I am, on the court, well, I am not so emotional now, but I think that's because I am older," she said.

Top seed Steffi Graf, ranked no. 1 in the world, faces qualifier Mercedes Paz of Argentina Wednesday.

Newly crowned Italian Open champion Monica Seles of Yugoslavia will not play her first match until Thursday when she faces Nicole Pietrangeli of the Netherlands.

Fiorentina faces daunting task to lift UEFA Cup

AVELLINO, Italy (R) — Fiorentina will need to produce their best performance of the season against Juventus in Wednesday's UEFA Cup final second leg if they are to overcome a 3-1 first leg deficit.

A 2-0 victory would be enough to give Fiorentina their first European trophy since they won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1961, but they have not scored more than once in any match in the previous rounds.

Home leg advantage will count for nothing as Fiorentina, who narrowly avoided relegation this season, have been forced to play the tie in the small-town stadium of Avellino in southern Italy because of crowd trouble during the semifinal.

But trainer Francesco Graziani, the former World Cup player brought in after Bruno Giorgi was sacked six weeks ago, says he has three reasons to be hopeful of a Fiorentina victory — fitness, enthusiasm and 23-year-old Italy midfielder Roberto Baggio.

"It's one thing to beat Juventus, but it's another to have to win by 2-0. But the genius of Baggio can make the difference. All it needs is a brilliant stroke from him, preferably in the first half, to put Fiorentina back on track," Graziani said.

Baggio, the league's second highest scorer with 17 goals this season, summed up Fiorentina's tactics simply. "Attack, attack, attack. We've got to score straight away," he said.

Ironically, it is likely to be Baggio's last match for Fiorentina. Juventus are expected to announce soon afterwards that he will be joining them next season.

Graziani has no injury problems to contend with and will field the same team that played in the first leg. Brazilian international Dunga joins the squad later after playing 45 minutes in Brazil's friendly against East Germany in Rio De Janeiro Sunday.

The match will be the last for Juventus manager Dino Zoff, who has already guided the club to the Italian Cup this season and a guaranteed place in Europe next year.

Juventus, whose last European trophy was the European Cup in 1985, are releasing the former Italian World Cup captain after two years as manager because they had already agreed to hire Bologna coach Luigi Maifredi.

The mood in the Juventus camp is relaxed despite some last-minute problems with the line-up. Defender Dario Bonetti is disqualified and midfielder Daniele Fortunato is injured.

Libero Roberto Tricella appears to have recovered just in time from a torn ligament in mid-April and Zoff is expected to move Soviet Sergei Aleinikov into a more defensive role.

The attack will be entrusted as usual to Sicilian-born Salvatore Schillaci, who was called up for the Italian World Cup squad last month.

Whoever wins the cup, Italy will claim their second European title of the season after Sampdoria took the Cup Winners' Cup last week.

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THE CASE OF THE VANISHING TRICK

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ 5
♥ 8 3
♦ Q J 8 4 2
♣ A K 8 7 2

EAST
♠ Q 9 7 4 2
♥ J 10 6 4
♦ A 5
♣ 10 6

SOUTH
♠ A 10 8 6 3
♥ A 9
♦ 10 7 6
♣ Q 5

The bidding:
West: 1♣, North: 2♥, East: 3♣, South: 4♣.
Pass, Pass, Pass, 4♣.

Opening lead: King of ♣.

This is a theme we've used before, but it never ceases to amaze us how an apparently certain trick can be made to vanish into thin air. How would you play five diamonds after the lead of the king of hearts?

North's jump to two, no trump, was "unusual" — a takeout for the minor suits. With working controls in the major suits, a key queen in one of partner's suits and four-card support in the other, South's leap to five diamonds was fully justified.

West led the king of hearts, and it might seem that declarer cannot

U.S. announces World Cup team

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AP) — There were no surprises when the United States World Cup soccer team was announced. The Americans hope to save their surprises for the tournament.

If the Americans have any success at the World Cup, beginning June 10 against Czechoslovakia, it would be a major surprise. In its first World Cup since 1950, the United States will be represented by a young, inexperienced team.

"Our team represents the nucleus of the squad which we assembled back in January 1989," said coach Bob Gansler. "Nearly 30 matches and countless practice sessions later, we feel that these athletes are ready for the ultimate challenge in soccer, carrying the USA banner into the World Cup."

Captain Mike Windischmann is the most experienced player on the international level in U.S. history. Windischmann, 24, a defender, has made 48 international appearances and was a member of the 1988 U.S. Olympic team.

Joining him on defense are Desmond Armstrong, Marcelo Balboa, Jimmy Banks, John Doyle, Paul Krumpal and Steve Tritschel.

The goalkeepers are Tooy Meola, Kasey Keller and David Vanole. Meola is expected to be the starter.

At midfield will be Paul Caligiuri, whose goal against Trinidad and Tobago in the final qualifying game got the United States into the tournament; Brian Bliss, Neil Covone, John Harkes, Chris Henderson, Tab Ramos and John Stolleyer.

The forwards are Eric Eichmann, Bruce Murray, Chris Sullivan, Peter Vermes, and Eric Wynalda.

Cut were Troy Dayak, Tah Eck and Hugo Perez. Dayak and Eck were expected to be dropped.

Perez has been plagued by injuries for nearly two years, including a stress fracture of his leg, a torn muscle, then a fractured right leg. His lack of playing time with the team and his questionable health cost him a spot.

At 27, Stolleyer and Vanole are the oldest players. Henderson, 19, is the youngest.

Gansler coached the U.S. under-20 team to fourth place in the world youth championships in January 1989. That was the United States' highest finish ever in a major international soccer event.

Gansler will be coaching only the fourth World Cup representative for the United States. In its

last appearance, in 1950 at Brazil, the Americans defeated England 1-0 in one of the biggest upsets in World Cup history.

The United States is grouped with Italy, Austria and Czechoslovakia in the first round.

The U.S. team plays Partizan Belgrad of Yugoslavia at New Haven, Connecticut, Sunday, in a warmup game before leaving for Europe. The Americans play Liechtenstein on May 30 and Switzerland on June 2 before beginning World Cup competition.

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THE SERVANT

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Manila to end current accord on U.S. bases

MANILA (R) — The Philippines Tuesday formally notified the United States it would terminate its current military bases agreement next year, but left the door open for a new accord.

Philippine spokesman Rafael Alunan said the United States was told the present 25-year agreement on the bases could not be extended.

"With regard to negotiations for a new treaty, we are open for suggestions," he told a news conference.

The United States and the Philippines began exploratory talks on the future of the largest overseas American military facilities Monday. The United States is seeking a new agreement that will enable the bases to remain in the next century.

U.S. spokesman Stanley Schragger said he did not regard the formal termination notice as meaning the United States would abandon its giant bases at Clark and Subic, used to defend the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean regions.

But Alunan said during the same briefing that the termination notice implied U.S. withdrawal from the bases unless a new pact was in place.

Schragger said he hoped the exploratory talks on the bases would not last more than a week, and would set the stage for formal negotiations.

He said there was a disagreement over when the current agreement expired, with the Philippines arguing it ended on Sept. 16, 1991, and the U.S. insisting it ended one year later.

But he said the United States hoped to avoid a confrontation over the date.

The issue of termination is required if the agreement is not extended, President Corason Aquino had previously said it would be made next September. Alunan did not explain why the date had been brought forward.

"Today, 15 May, 1990, marks an historic moment for all Filipinos. We have taken that first step in terminating an agreement that was executed in 1947 during the days of lingering U.S. colonialism

in the Philippines," Alunan declared.

It signalled Philippine resolve "to chart a new and truly independent course in which all dealings with foreign governments shall uphold the dignity and sovereignty of the Philippines," he added.

U.S. officials said security around the bases would be high on the talks' agenda following the killing of two U.S. airmen near Clark Air Base Sunday by Communist guerrillas.

Police in Olongapo, west of Manila, said a retired American serviceman was stabbed by an unknown assailant near Subic Bay Naval Base Monday evening. His condition was not known.

Aquino said Monday as the exploratory talks opened that the Philippine government was taking all necessary measures to protect the 40,000 American military personnel and their dependants in the country.

But she said, "we cannot guarantee a 100 per cent fail-safe protection. No government can."

At least 10 Americans have been killed by Communist New People's Army guerrillas in the Philippines since 1987.

Attacker arrested

Police arrested an alleged drug addict who has confessed to stabbing the retired American serviceman, a police spokesman said Tuesday.

He said the man confessed after his arrest to attacking American Richard Rhodes outside a bar in Olongapo City shortly before midnight Monday.

"He said there was no indication the attack was politically motivated or related to exploratory talks in Manila on the future of U.S. military bases in the country," witnesses described the 26-year-old alleged assailant as "not in his right senses."

Rebels claim killing

2 U.S. airmen
Communist rebels claimed responsibility for the slayings Sunday of the two American airmen and warned that the killings would continue until all U.S. military facilities and troops were "kicked out" of the country.

Jay-Ar Sigua, regional spokesman of the Communist New People's Army, made the claim in a signed statement sent by courier Tuesday to the Associated Press. Sigua said the American servicemen were "punished" because American troops, Central Intelligence Agents (CIA) and other U.S. spies have increasingly participated in the government's counter-insurgency campaign.

Sigua also claimed that U.S. troops participated in the interrogation of suspected guerrillas. He said two guerrillas were tortured and injected with truth serum by their interrogators, resulting in one of them going insane.

The rebel spokesman also claimed that American soldiers have committed "countless abuses" against Filipino base workers, Filipino women and slum dwellers living near the bases.

63 rebels killed in attack

In a separate development, helicopter gunships and light bomber aircraft pounded a Communist guerrilla camp in the central Philippines killing 63 rebels, the military said Tuesday.

Area Commander Brigadier-General Vicente Garcia said one soldier was killed in Monday's assault in the mountains of Hilonggo municipality on Leyte Island, 500 kilometres southeast of Manila.

Garcia told reporters the casualty figures were based on a body count. The toll could not be independently verified.

Troops assaulted the rebel camp after the aerial bombardment, the military said.

The casualty toll was one of the highest this year inflicted on the New People's Army.

Missile swap — a sign of post-cold war times

WASHINGTON (AP) — The superpowers are about to commit an act they've tried mightily to avoid throughout 45 years of cold war: an intercontinental nuclear exchange.

This one, though, will be friendly.

Nuclear missiles of the type the United States and the Soviet Union had aimed across the East-West divide — but are now withdrawing — are to be propped up, painted and polished, side by side, in museums in Washington and Moscow.

It's a small sign of fast-changing times in which military competition is lessening and new symbols of superpower cooperation are replacing cold war confrontation.

A Soviet SS-20 and an American Pershing 2 — minus their nuclear warheads — will be displayed at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum. They'll stand in the milestones of Flight Gallery, amid such aviation icons as the 1903 Wright Brothers original flyer, the Spirit of St. Louis and a replica of Sputnik 1, the Soviet satellite that was the first man-made object placed in Earth's orbit.

A separate exhibit in the museum's space hall will display pictures of the missiles; copies of the intermediate-range nuclear forces, or INF, treaty, which governs destruction of the missiles and their launchers, and chunks of destroyed INF missiles.

The Space Hall exhibit will be titled "Do Veri, No Pro Veri." The Russian proverb, meaning "trust, but verify," was then-President Reagan's favourite way of describing the central message of the INF treaty he signed on Dec. 7, 1987.

The exhibit opens on June 20. A similar display is due to open at Moscow's Central Armed Forces Museum, the city's main military museum, sometime this summer.

On Thursday, a team of American officials will arrive in Moscow to swap a disarmed Pershing 2 for the SS-20 that will be shipped in five pieces to the Smithsonian. Later this month, Soviet technicians are to fly to Washington to assemble the SS-20, whose 16.5-metre length will barely fit inside the museum. The slimmer, lighter, faster and more modern Pershing 2 is 10 metres long.

Smithsonian officials had wanted the missiles in place by the time Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev arrived in Washington on May 30 for a summit meeting with President George Bush, said Gregg Herken, chairman of the museum's Space History Department.

But bureaucratic obstacles set back the original schedule, and Herken said it was not certain whether the exhibit would be finished before Gorbachev leaves on June 3.

"It's possible we'll be assembling the SS-20 here while the summit is going on," he said, adding that it will be the first Soviet missile ever displayed at the Smithsonian.

Herken acknowledged that the exhibit is a departure from the Air and Space Museum's usual practice of showcasing peaceful advances in technology and human accomplishment. He said the museum wanted to commemorate not the missiles themselves but the landmark agreement that brought about their destruction.

"That is an icon of human achievement," he said.

The SS-20 is the main Soviet missile being destroyed under terms of the INF treaty, which banned all U.S. and Soviet land-based nuclear missiles with ranges of 310 to 3,140 miles (500 to 5,000 kilometres). The American missiles in this category are the Pershing 2 and Tomahawk ground-launched cruise missiles deployed in five European NATO countries.

The SS-20, which Moscow began deploying in 1979, carries three nuclear warheads with a total destructive power of 750 kilotons, the equivalent of 750,000 tons of TNT. That is about 50 times more powerful than the atomic bomb that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945.

The single-warhead Pershing 2 carried a 30-kiloton warhead and has been deployed in West Germany since 1983.

The idea for exchanging INF missiles and putting them on public display began with two Air and Space Museum curators, Frank Winter and Paul Coruzzi, who noticed a 1988 newspaper article on the INF treaty that said both sides would be allowed to keep up to 15 disarmed missiles for "static display."

Rebel victory should accelerate Angola peace process — Savimbi

MAVINGA, Angola (AP) — Guerrilla leader Jonas Savimbi said his forces' stand against a government offensive marked the rebels' biggest battlefield victory and would speed up efforts to end the 15-year civil war.

UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) halted the 137-day offensive by Marxist government troops last week in a 36-hour battle outside Mavinga, a strategic town in the rebel stronghold of south-eastern Angola.

"Our victory at Mavinga will accelerate the peace process," Savimbi told journalists Sunday night in a bunker at the UNITA compound near the town. "The situation (throughout Angola) is so bad, no one can refuse to talk for peace."

A United Nations team that recently visited the southwestern African nation estimated 300,000 Angolans face starvation because of war and drought.

Savimbi said the fighting at Mavinga was the largest and most important battle since war between the U.S.-backed guerrillas and Soviet- and Cuban-supported government troops broke out in 1975, the year Angola gained independence from Portugal.

The warring parties met last month in Portugal for what Savimbi termed "exploratory contacts." He said he expected additional talks within two to

three weeks at a time and place set by Portuguese officials.

Last month's meeting marked the first direct contact between the two sides since Savimbi and Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos agreed last June to a ceasefire at a summit in neighbouring Zaire. The ceasefire collapsed within days.

Savimbi said up to 12,000 guerrillas and 10,000 government troops were involved in the fighting around Mavinga that ended on May 7.

The government has denied its forces were beaten, saying they decided to leave Mavinga because it was no longer strategically important.

UNITA said the government forces ran out of food and water and were forced to retreat.

More than 1,000 government soldiers were killed, according to UNITA. The rebels declined to give their own casualty figures, but acknowledged the loss of six high-ranking commanders.

The Angolan government has said some 500 soldiers on each side died at Mavinga.

The burned-out remains of more than two dozen government military vehicles, including tanks, armoured personnel carriers and supply trucks, were strewn at a battle site about 10 kilometres outside Mavinga.

UNITA said it has salvaged dozens of additional vehicles left

behind. Large supplies of government weapons, including artillery shells and rockets were piled high on the battlefield.

When journalists toured the site Sunday, fighter planes of the government forces buzzed overhead.

UNITA officials say the government's Soviet-built MiG-23 fighters have been making regular bombing runs in recent weeks, but their accuracy is poor because they fly at around 9,000 metres to stay out of range of anti-aircraft Stinger missiles.

The Angolan government receives most of its military hardware from the Soviet Union. Some 50,000 Cuban soldiers have fought alongside the government forces, but about 35,000 have departed and the rest are scheduled to leave by the middle of next year.

There was no evidence of direct Cuban involvement in the recent fighting, UNITA said.

UNITA is receiving an estimated \$50 million in assistance this year from the United States. Recent "emergency aid" included jeeps with mounted machine guns and anti-tank weapons that Savimbi said proved extremely effective.

South African soldiers, who previously fought alongside the rebels, withdrew in 1988 under the same treaty that calls for the Cuban pullout.

Sikh militants kill 7 in Punjab

AMRITSAR, India (R) — Sikh militants dressed in security force uniforms dragged seven men from India's outcaste Harijan community from their homes, lined them up in a Punjab village and killed them, police said Tuesday.

They said the seven were shot late Monday in Darawal village, 45 kilometres north of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar. A woman was injured when she tried to prevent the militants from dragging her husband away.

Police said the militants were wearing uniforms of the Paramilitary Border Security Force,

which guards the Punjab border with Pakistan.

The attack was the third of its kind in the area in the past two weeks and was carried out by Satnam Singh Satta, who calls himself chief general of the Khalistan Liberation Force, one of several groups fighting for an independent Sikh state, police said.

Police said Satta left a note at the scene saying: "As long as fake encounters continue and police continue to kill Sikh youths, we will continue to kill in retaliation."

Former prisoners remember Katyn forest

COCOA, Florida (AP) — Stanley Majcher and John Van Vliet Jr. found out during World War II what Moscow would do to the last month: The Red Army was responsible for the Katyn Forest massacre in Poland.

Majcher was a prisoner of the Soviets in a camp considered the last stop before execution. He remembers the epitaphs Polish officers scrawled in blood on prison walls before they were led off to their deaths in 1940.

"They knew they were going to die. They cut their hands and fingers and used their bleeding fingers to write their names on jail cell walls at Starobelsk," said Majcher, who was spared at the last minute when word got out of the mass shootings.

Van Vliet was a U.S. army colonel captured by the Germans and taken to the forest in May 1943 to witness the exhumation of the mass graves containing at least 4,800 bodies. He left convinced the slayings were carried out by the Russians in 1940, well before Germans occupied the forest.

"I didn't want to believe the Germans — they were the enemy, my captors," Van Vliet said, thinking at the time he was being used for propaganda purposes.

When freed after the war, Van Vliet said, he gave a report of his visit to the death site to U.S. military intelligence officials.

He and other officers agreed that the victims could not have been frontline soldiers since their uniforms and footwear showed little wear. Diaries, newspaper clippings and other evidence found in the graves indicated that most all were officers and were killed in the spring of 1940 in territory then held by the Soviets.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced in April that the crime, which has poisoned Soviet-Polish relations for years, was committed at Stalin's direction.

For some central Florida residents, the reports have stirred memories that had dimmed since the massacre 50 years ago.

Majcher, a former fighter pilot who now lives in Cocoa, was held captive by the Soviets for 18 months.

Yeltsin seeks top post in Russian Republic

MOSCOW (AP) — Maverick politician Boris Yeltsin has announced he would run for president of the Soviet Union's largest republic but said he expected strong opposition from the Communist Party apparatus.

Yeltsin, a highly popular figure due to his anti-elite stance and his calls for more radical reform, made the announcement to several hundred people who gathered to view a new film on his life.

Yeltsin, a leader of a group of legislators that is demanding quicker and more thorough reforms, also took advantage of the occasion to get in several verbal punches at President Mikhail Gorbachev.

He accused Gorbachev of being "in a state of panic," saying the president had "lost control of himself and lost political control of the country."

The Congress of the Russian Federation, the giant republic of 150 million people that stretches from the Baltic and Black Seas in the west to the Pacific in the east, is scheduled to open Wednesday.

Yeltsin said he expects his main opponent for the presidency to be Alexander Vlasov, a non-voting member of the Communist Party's politburo and current prime minister of Russian Republic. He portrayed Vlasov as the "apparatus" candidate.

Speaking Monday night at Moscow's Union of Cinematographers' Club, Yeltsin said the Communist Party had gathered about 200 of the Russian congress deputies at a special meeting Saturday and Gorbachev had recommended Vlasov to them as the next president.

Assessing his chances of being elected, he said that about a third

of the deputies backed him firmly, a would surely surely oppose him and the rest would decide the outcome.

Yeltsin was easily elected to the Russian Congress in March elections, gathering 72 per cent of the vote in his home city of Sverdlovsk in the Ural Mountains.

The vote further cemented his status as a favourite of the masses, and a whose popularity stems largely from his image as a campaigner against "apparatchiks" and a former victim of the apparatus himself.

Yeltsin was dumped from his job as Moscow party chief in late 1987 for his outspoken criticism of Gorbachev's reforms. He was later given a state post in construction with the rank of minister.

At the congress, Yeltsin has emerged as a leader of the fledgling opposition to Communist Party leaders and has continued to push for faster reforms.

Yeltsin pledged Monday he would help Russia gain more rights in the Soviet Union, saying that as things stand, Russia "follows the lead of the centre. It has no policies of its own, foreign or domestic."

He said his programme as president would include doing away with all government ministries and merging the KGB with the police.

Yeltsin, who underwent a back operation in Spain recently and has been hospitalised several times with heart problems, tried to allay concerns about his health.

He said Spanish doctors gave him a complete medical check and pronounced to be "a unique specimen of homo sapiens."

Exiled Tibetans elect 3 of 7 cabinet seats

DHARMSALA, India (AP) — A move to reform the increasingly ineffective Tibetan government-in-exile completed its first step Tuesday but faced strong conservative opposition to changes instituted by the Dalai Lama.

On Monday, 368 representatives of the 120,000 overseas Tibetans elected for the first time the government-in-exile's Kashag, or cabinet.

But only three of the seven seats were filled. Conservative opponents of the Dalai Lama's

COLUMN

Bangladesh expels 11,000 students for cheating

DHAKA (R) — Nearly 11,000 students have been expelled for cheating and violence during three days of college entry examinations last week, education officials have said. More than 200 students were arrested and 300 injured in clashes with police and about 100 teachers suspended for helping cheaters, they said. Nearly 450,000 students are taking the month-long secondary school certificate tests in more than 500 centres. There was violence in about 70 examination centres where students demonstrated for the "right to cheat," attacked teachers and battled police with home-made bombs, stones and sticks.

Man pleads guilty in old murder case

DALLAS (AP) — A man who fled Dallas after his girlfriend's 1960 shooting death and lived a new life for almost 30 years has pleaded guilty to a murder charge. Robert Lee Mitchell, 64, left Dallas for Chicago after the shooting in 1960 and began a new life as "Billy Jackson." He married and had five children and three grandchildren before a computer check of old warrants turned up a fingerprint connection between Mitchell and "Jackson." He was returned to Dallas late last year.

Judge uses 204 movie titles in antitrust decision

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Federal Appeals Court Judge Alex Kozinski, an avowed film buff, couldn't resist using 204 movie titles in an antitrust decision. In a 25-page decision Wednesday for the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Kozinski rejected a federal antitrust suit accusing theatre operator Raymond Syfy of monopolising the first-run film market in Las Vegas. By Kozinski's account, the trial lasted not eight days or nine, but exactly "8 1/2," as in the title of a Fellini film. Syfy was "somewhat of a local hero," the judge wrote. Another chain, "stepped into the major leagues, and against all odds" began competing seriously.

Not easy to be Zsa Zsa sister — Eva Gabor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It is not easy being Zsa Zsa Gabor's sister. Eva Gabor, whose Bel-Air mansion is a short distance from Zsa Zsa's estate, complains that people often mix her up with her Hungarian-born sister. But Zsa Zsa also has suffered an occasional identity crisis: When she was tried and convicted last fall of slapping a police officer, witnesses testified that they recognised her from an old television series, Green Acres. Actually, it was Eva who appeared in the series. "Why should we be linked together, dahlink? That annoys the hell out of me. Because we have very different lives and what is white for her is black for me," the 69-year-old Eva said in a recent interview. "Of course, she's my sister and I love her." "But I don't necessarily approve of certain things she does, nor does she of what I do. I just think it's so unfair, and I suffer a lot for it." Eva Gabor went into "serious hiding" during her sister's legal problems, but she conceded: "It's awfully boring to be called the 'good Gabor'."

Man robs a bank to pay a tip

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (AP) — A man who wanted to treat his waitress properly took things too far, police said, robbing a bank to come up with her tip. The man, whom police described as a shirtless transient, became concerned when he went to pay the \$4 bill for his lunch at the downtown Golden Spike Restaurant. "After he ate, he told the waitress, 'I don't have enough money for a tip, but I'm going to go rob a bank and I'll be back,'" said Dolores Steggall, supervisor of the restaurant. The man allegedly walked across the street to First Interstate Bank, told the teller he had a gun and demanded all of the \$20-bills, said Salt Lake Police Lieutenant Joel Campbell. He fled the bank clutching about \$1,200 in his hand and entered the restaurant, where he gave the waitress a \$2 tip, Steggall said. Before he was able to leave, police arrived, arrested him and recovered the money, including the tip.

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